Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-134
Wednesday
13 July 1988

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Central American Presidents To Postpone Summit

PA1207135888 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1245 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The Central American presidential summit to study the progress made a year after the signing of the Esquipulas II agreements will not be held on 7 August. Some of the presidents have announced they will attend Ecuadoran President-Elect Rodrigo Borja's inauguration on 10 August, and they must be in Quito 2 days before the event. Also, Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte must travel to the United States for medical reasons. The summit will therefore have to be postponed.

Meanwhile, the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the foreign ministers of the four Central American democracies will be held on 1 August. Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal said the Guatemalan foreign minister's agenda problems are being resolved; if he cannot attend the meeting, however, he will be represented by his deputy foreign minister. This meeting was suggested by Secretary Shultz during his recent trip to Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto will not be attending the meeting. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Agrarian Cooperative Meeting

Santa Cruz, 5 Jul (EFE)—Today in this city delegates of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Honduras, Peru, Panama, and Venezuela began a meeting of Latin American agricultural cooperatives. The agenda includes such issues as the market economy, cooperative economy planning, legal organization, and the optimal size of cooperatives. [Summary] [*PY0707154688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0044 GMT 6 Jul 88*]

Cuba

USSR Armed Forces Staff Chief Continues Visit

Lays Wreath at Monument

FL1207181788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Fedorovich Akhromeyev and the official military delegation of the USSR's Armed Forces he is heading, placed a floral wreath at the foot of the monument of national hero Jose Marti at Revolution Square this morning.

Division General Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, and first vice minister of the FAR, and other chiefs and officers of the Armed Forces attended the ceremony along with the Soviet marshal.

Meets With Fidel Castro

FL1307114588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Marshal of the Soviet Union Sergey Fedorovich Akhromeyev, chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces. Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the FAR, also participated in the meeting.

The talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere in keeping with the relations between the two countries. Matters related to the development of military cooperation between the USSR and Cuba, the international situation, and other subjects of interest were discussed in the meeting.

The commander in chief hosted a reception during the evening in honor of the distinguished visitor and those accompanying him.

Army General Raul Castro had previously received the USSR marshal at the FAR Ministry offices, where the distinguished guest and the rest of the officers accompanying him, were warmly welcomed. The talks, which included topics of mutual interest, were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere in accordance with the fraternal ties uniting the parties, peoples, and armed forces of Cuba and the USSR.

Further on Castro at Havana Enterprise Meeting

FL0807031288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2301 GMT 7 Jul 88

[From the "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres]

[Text] [Torres] The third meeting of Havana Province enterprises which opened this morning continues with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in the chair. Rebelde's "Exclusivo" has had a team covering this important event from early this morning. Here is reporter Virginia Maria Pineiro, from our national division, to give us details and insights. Good evening, Virginia.

[Pineiro] Good evening, Daniel. For Rebelde's "Exclusivo" from the Karl Marx Theater. Speaking in the second session of the third meeting of Havana enterprises, the director of (Suchel) referred to the enterprise's experience with regard to the qualifications of its present cadres. The results in this area have been positive, inasmuch as personnel with the required technical and theoretical know-how have been selected. He also spoke of the controls applied in this industry in the various departments, of the dedication of the officials and workers to (Suchel's) control and production, and of the progress of the plan involving paying attention to man. As he had at other points in the meeting, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, then spoke with the (Suchel) director about the connection of young people with the industries and about the need to develop this in the economics school. Fidel referred to the technical training of the cadres and expressed concern about the costs at (Suchel), which should be reduced to less than 90 centavos while production and productivity are tripled. We are now going to hear the discussions, specifically about the toothpaste situation:

[Begin recording] [Speaker] As to toothpaste, we are planning a certain amount of equipment replacement. A report sent in by Esquivel [not further identified] told of the problems with raw materials. This is the program you were asking us about, a program to replace the equipment because it is more than 40 years old. We need to replace some of this equipment. We have included this in the 1989 plan.

[Castro] Isn't there any program to increase production, or the production capacity?

[Speaker] As I was telling you, Commander, we could produce 5,500 tons of toothpaste. However, it will still be a good deal for the country to import 500. Thus, with 6,000, this country would have no toothpaste problem. This has been demonstrated. Some people may prefer this brand over the other, etc. That's another story. However, we have managed with 6,000 tons of toothpaste for the past 25... [corrects himself] 22 years.

[Castro] Yes, but the population has grown.

[Speaker] Well, yes, but I mean with the population growth. The situation has remained the same and there have been no problems. There have really been no problems concerning toothpaste in the past 20 years.

[Castro] How much does a ton of toothpaste cost?

[Speaker] That's 955 pesos.

[Castro] How much does the raw material cost?

[Speaker] Well. I told you over a million for the whole production.

[Castro] Man, I'm talking about tons, not the whole industry!

[Speaker] Oh, tons. Raw material should be about 800 pesos per ton. Something like that. [end recording]

[Pineiro] To sum up, I should tell you that the meeting began with a speech by Jorge Lezcano, first party secretary in Havana City Province, who noted that the province's mercantile production grew 4.5 percent in the first 6 months of the year and that 39 million pesos were saved. Representatives of the miscellaneous crops and shipyard enterprises and enterprises that produce measuring or recording instruments, as well as of the Cuban tuna fishing fleet, also participated, referring to the situation in their industries with regard to costs and controls of inventory, basic production means, and idle equipment. This is an exclusive of Radio Rebelde and Daniel Torres.

[Torres] Virginia, before you leave, I noticed that the topics discussed were not the ones on the agenda. For instance, have the debates on accountability taken place?

[Pineiro] They have discussed controls, specifically—how a new control system has been set up that has made it possible for both the director and the workers to be apprised of general costs. As you know, accountability has to do with costs and other aspects. The basic discussion has centered on costs, but other topics have been broached in general terms. For instance, tomatoes. They talked about hydroponics in Havana and Santiago de Cuba. The first party secretaries took part. I can also tell you that Fidel asked why (Suchel) is exporting soap instead of increasing national production of toothpaste.

Supply Problems, Norms Viewed

FL0807200088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1242 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] The third meeting of Havana enterprises, which has been taking place since yesterday at the Karl Marx Theater in Havana, has been characterized by the critical emphasis with which problems are being discussed. When the issue of plan nonfulfillment of some enterprises was analyzed, light industry was cited, as it does not fulfill its plan in aluminum, shoes, (?laundry) detergent, thread, textiles, and toothpaste.

Our commander in chief expressed interest in the difficulties these enterprises have encountered in obtaining supplies. [passage indistinct] Along those lines, one of the more discussed subjects and one on which he put special emphasis was toothpaste. He showed how, in certain cases, plan nonfulfillment was caused by subjective factors.

Comrade Jose Garcia, director of the (Suchel) enterprise, answered some questions concerning the present situation as pertains to toothpaste.

[Begin recording] [Castro] How much raw material is brought in every year for that industry?

[Garcia] Toothpaste, for example, has many raw materials. We bring [words indistinct] sodium sulfate, sorbitol, and CMC [not further identified].

[Castro] Well, fine. But how much does all that cost (?for) the production....

[Garcia, interrupting] It must be around $1 million for raw materials. This is an approximation because I don't have detailed data, but it should be around that figure.

[Castro] And you didn't have the money, or you had the money and mismanaged it?

[Garcia] We had problems with purchasing and with financing for 360 days. So, we couldn't (?get) the raw material, and that is why we were at a standstill.

[Castro] How long were you at a standstill?

[Garcia] We were at a standstill for approximately 1 month.

[Castro] At a standstill for a month?

[Garcia] This year....

[Castro, interrupting] What was the demand for toothpaste in the country?

[Garcia] The toothpaste demand is just what I told you. We are producing 5,300 [tons] this year.

[Castro] Plus 800, that is 6,100.

[Garcia] Yes, approximately.

[Castro] To what extent was the demand satisfied—6,100?

[Garcia] Yes, with packaging.

[Castro] With packaging.

[Garcia] With packaging....

[Castro, interrupting] How was it being distributed?

[Garcia] [Words indistinct] 45, 60 days. That is the packaging which is kept from the production and from....

[Castro, interrupting] I understand that when the shortage was first noticed, purchases of the product increased.

[Garcia] Yes, Commander. Havana City, for example, consumes approximately 100 tons of toothpaste. When the toothpaste was rationed, and Havana City was exempted from the rationing, 130 tons were consumed in the first 2 weeks.

[Castro] Who was the wise guy who rationed everyone else and not Havana? It was not logical for that to happen. It's a shame that it should have happened, because it [words indistinct]. With this whole problem, who knows how much toothpaste we'll be short of.

[Garcia] After we got the raw material....

[Castro, interrupting] The raw material finally arrived?

[Garcia] The raw material arrived, and we produced 500 tons in the month of May and some 480 tons in the month of June, plus a liquid toothpaste that we redid the formula on, like the ones we used to make. When the raw materials arrived we were able to do it. We came up with 99 formulas jointly with the Ministry of Public Health to avoid another standstill.

[Castro] Nevertheless, what happened with the imported toothpaste?

[Garcia] Well, there were problems of availability. We made some arrangements with the Bulgarian comrades. Our ambassador in Bulgaria....

[Castro, interrupting] In other words, it failed.

[Garcia] It failed.

[Castro] So what happens when it fails? You have to rush over there to the capitalist market to buy it.

[Garcia] Well, yes.

[Castro] Isn't it better for the country to have enough capacity to produce toothpaste so it doesn't have to depend on anyone else? That's what happens to us with chickens. We had a contract with Hungary for 10,000 tons and one with Bulgaria for 5,000. We don't deny that they are very good. But then the chicken doesn't arrive. Then you have to rush to the world market to buy chicken. We have planned for the country to have the capacity to produce the chicken it needs. At the last minute, you have to bring in the raw material. It is always more expensive to buy chicken which has already been raised and processed than to produce our own. We are working on breeding places for chickens to resolve that problem. Because the situation is not guaranteed, we run around every time we have to wait for a ship and it doesn't arrive. Then we have to look for a sure way of supplying it. You need more capacity; you need to produce 7,000. But you should also think about what you need to have better toothpaste than what you already have. We don't want a toothpaste that is so hard it sticks together and turns into cement, concrete, etc. [applause] Say what you need in order to produce 7,000 tons, at least, or from 7,000 to 7,500. Once and for all, just say it. Say it so that we can find a decent solution to this problem. [end recording]

The review of norms and the contradictions which exist in this sense were the object of extensive debate. The enterprise of (La Oma) presented its positive experiences in this regard.

[Begin recording] [Castro] We are talking here about norms which are technical and those which are not. However, I don't know if there is someone who can say what quality our norms have. What level of quality do they have?

[Speaker] I can tell you more about that.

[Castro] That's right. I was going to ask you to talk. I have always thought a lot about that matter. I don't think that it is an insurmountable problem. After all, the salaries aren't very high. There is room for revision of norms and rates, as long as this is used to get the worker to produce as much as possible and still with quality. Often, quality and norms are divorced. Quality and fulfillment and overfulfillment of norms are divorced. But this seems to be one of the problems we have to resolve. I don't know how much progress the comrades have made in this. I was also saying that we are not sure up to what point our norms are adequate. They have an acceptable quality level. Maybe, as you say, some are better and others less so. But let's listen to Comrade Panchito to hear what he has to say and find out what he thinks about this.

[Panchito] With regard to this problem, we would like to say the following: We have now for several months been working with the purpose of getting some experience relating to this phenomenon of norms setting. Approximately 85 percent of the norms in this country—as you know there are approximately 3 million norms in all—are very basic norms. I am not even saying basic norms but very basic norms. A small group of semi-technical norms and a small group of technical norms.

[Castro] I will ask the comrade over there from Conrado de Pina. I will ask you three questions. How many workers do you have ?

[Conrado de Pina worker] The enterprise has 1,758 workers, Commander.

[Castro] That's a whole lot of people you have there.

[Worker] Yes, a whole lot of people.

[Castro] And you are managing them with 62?

[Worker] With 72.

[Castro] Fine. So, are some aspects of your production the same as 40 years ago?

[Worker] The same as 40 years ago.

[Castro] Do you have some old workers there?

[Worker] Yes, there are some old workers there....

[Castro, interrupting] Or a retiree who visits the factory?

[Worker] We have the retirees association.

[Castro] A whole association? Have you by any chance asked a worker what the production level was during capitalism in comparison to today's production level, working at the same place and with the same machinery?

[Worker] It's not that I haven't asked. It's just that I have the book from that time that has the information.

[Castro] Well, tell me something about that.

[Worker] Well, I can tell you. The shoe factory was inaugurated in 1944.

[Castro] Yes.

[Worker] The Americans would make 6,000 pairs of shoes daily. We make 12,000 to 12,500, twice as many as they do. We can make, and it is our ambition to....

[Castro, interrupting] So you are saying that with those machines more shoes can be made than the number the Yankees used to make.

[Worker] Yes, and we are making them.

[Castro] Now, tell me how much would a worker produce during the times of the Yankees, and how much do our workers produce today? I want to have an idea.

[Worker] They had 400 workers.

[Castro] They had 400 in shoe production?

[Worker] Yes, in shoe production.

[Castro] And you?

[Worker] I have 618.

[Castro] So you produce twice as much. Did you introduce some innovations to increase productivity?

[Worker] No. That continues to be exactly the same as when it was inaugurated in 1944.

[Castro] So, that means that our workers today, in 8 hours, produce more shoes than during the times of capitalism.

[Worker] I can't say that, just like that, because we have two shifts, and they had one shift.

[Castro] Before.

[Worker] Yes, but don't say anything. The thing is very clear. [Castro, audience laugh]

[Castro] It's a total duplicated shift.

[Worker] No, yes—let's figure this out. It doesn't matter how we figure it because I save the indirect workers, the maintenance workers. Then, they used to make 6,000 pairs of shoes with 400 workers.

[Castro] But talk to me about production. A simple job that a worker does, not the whole shoe, (?because) several people work on that. In other words, in an 8-hour shift, our worker is producing the same and doing the same thing he used to do in capitalism. Our workers are producing in 8 hours the same amount that some of those retired workers used to produce.

[Worker] Yes, they are producing exactly the same. The lines, commander.

[Castro] The line is the work that a man does that can be measured?

[Worker] Yes, it can be measured. They do 14 operations per minute. [applause]

[Castro] So, that means that we have a greater productivity level than capitalism under the same conditions. Yes?

[Worker] Yes.

[Castro] You think so. You think it's a greater production level.

[Worker] It is a greater production level from the point of view of number of units. Now, what happens, commander....

[Castro, interrupting] And lower quality?

[Worker] Yes, quality is lower.

[Castro] What does that quality depend on?

[Worker] That quality depends on two essential factors. One factor is the condition of the equipment. That is 25 percent of the problem. And it is our responsibility to solve that, and we are solving it.

[Castro] That's right. What is the second factor?

[Worker] The second factor is an operational problem. Just as it was pointed out by our Comrade Linares, president of the CETSS [State Committee for Labor and Social Security], we have great mobility and fluctuation

in our work force. That is 75 percent of the problem. What happens? Sometimes a worker will be there on the line for 1 week. That is not enough time for him to learn the operation well, or for him to be disciplined, etc.

[Castro] What was the stability under capitalism?

[Worker] Stability in capitalism was practically [words indistinct] a queue, at the doorstep in front of a long queue of people, and you would earn 10 pesos in the line.

[Castro] Of course. So does that mean that being fully employed and having the possibility of moving is one of the problems we are facing today?

[Worker] Of course [words indistinct].

[Castro] We are facing the conditions of socialism. There is a factor there of a subjective nature derived from fluctuation. What about the lack of technical training?

[Worker] Logically, that new young employee who comes in to work and stays for a week does not have technical training. He could not have it. In other words, this whole operational problem fits together. However, we are not pessimistic about it. We are certain that the problem can be resolved. We are also certain that the measures we have been taking will yield results. And we are going to resolve the problem.

[Castro] Fine. So would you say that the norms you have are more or less rational?

[Worker] Ours are rational and I think that the problem should be studied well....

[Castro, interrupting] You think your norms are rational?

[Worker] I think so.

[Castro] I will ask you a question. If your limit was 30 instead of 50, how much would your norms increase? Based frankly on what you know there about the factory, if your limit were 30 instead of 50, what would the results be?

[Worker] Productivity could increase by 15 to 20 percent, Commander.

[Castro] In other words [words indistinct] by 140 and 145.

[Worker] I don't want to contradict anyone because it's not a matter of arguing, but I think that one of the elements which puts a halt to things and prevents norms from being better is precisely this limit. How can we make technical norms? Because, what is a technical norm? A technical norm (?summarizes) work organization. However, it also (?summarizes) a pace, a level of intensity on the part of an individual. If the individual is not interested, how does a large group of workers look upon a normalizer? You have other administrators here from the union movement. Let them stand and talk.

[Castro, looking around the room as he speaks] How do you look upon the normalizer? [Reply indistinct]

[Worker] When you send a normalizer, people put a halt to production. Is that the truth or a lie, comrades?

[Castro] Fine. I think this is a problem that can be resolved. But we have to look for a way. We must try to soften in some way, reconcile the interests, the needs, entailed by a norm (?for) a greater productivity. We must also look out for the interests of the workers. We must find a mechanism. I don't want to say that such a mechanism exits. It is something that we must think about a lot. Because anyone with a little common sense can see that there must be, and indeed is, a constant struggle between norms and workers, between the normalizer and the worker. For logical and natural reasons, this struggle will come about. We must see how this contradiction can be solved. There is also another contradiction—between norms and quality. I agree with you when you say the situation in one area is not the same as in another. The situation with regard to cutting of sugarcane is not the same as for some industrial work, or for another type of activity. But I think that it is one of the fundamental problems.

[Worker] I wanted to give you some data, Commander, and it is as follows. This is so we won't hold onto the idea that when a job is done at and above 130 percent, it is time to rush to review the norm. We have already said that that is done for a determined period of time. We may even reach the conclusion that we can do a test at the [words indistinct] period, like Lazarito [not further identified] says. This is especially so in those areas where we have semi-technical norms. Now, up to April of this year, we have had 44,953 workers who participate in manual work in production and have met the norms at over 131 percent. In work relating to mechanical processes, 83,926 workers met the norms at over 121 percent. [end recording]

Economic Efficiency Discussed

FL0907021988 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, continues to chair the debates of the third meeting of Havana enterprises which began yesterday at the Karl Marx Theater. In this morning's session, the debates continued to generate responses on what to do to make sure that the economic management system will guarantee adequate planning, organization, and control of social production. We must not forget that men implement these mechanisms and adapt them to each specific situation. That is why our leaders must be

capable and farsighted, because ignorance cannot be an excuse for inefficiency. The director of the (Balance) spinning mill, the first to speak today, skillfully discussed the subjectivity factor.

[Begin recording of mill director] Our comrades have begun talks with each worker to, first of all, learn about their production abilities and work attitude. We have discussed their performance almost daily, especially in the towel factory. We have sent our technicians to the plants that use our fibers. We must say here, without bragging, that our clients in general have a completely different opinion about our product. As to the towels, I feel that the comrades, especially those of the Union of Young Communists, have done very serious work among the employees along with the rest of the organizations, trying to interest them in the business of quality.

We really have had success. As you know, we began January with 0.2 percent in first grade quality production—something shameful. Right now we are recording 19 percent in first grade quality. Though we know this is nowhere near perfect, and we know that we have to keep improving to achieve our goal of 80-85 percent in first grade quality, we see that there has been a tremendous response by the workers, a tremendous awareness. [end recording]

However, to make the role this factor plays an absolute one would be a grave mistake. That is why our commander in chief asked about the use of mechanisms that make it possible to measure and control costs and economic efficiency.

[Begin recording] [Castro] In addition to the equipment, how much did it cost to build the plant?

[Mill director] Commander, you have caught me unprepared. I think it's around 45 million pesos, Commander. I am not completely sure.

[Castro] The building of the plant?

[Director] Yes.

[Castro] Equipment took up the rest, didn't it?

[Director] The rest, the rest. Some training costs were included, etc. We have been talking about this recently. Although what you are saying is clear, if we draw it out too long perhaps we would not feel....

[Castro, interrupting] But we have to see how much of that cost is the result of inefficiency.

[Director] Part of it is. You know that the construction....

[Castro, interrupting] In a way, the same thing that happened in Moa happened to you.

[Director] Like Moa.

[Castro] Not to such an extent. Have you finished the machinery plant?

[Director] Not yet, Commander. It should be finished in the second half of the year.

[Castro] You are finishing it in the second half of this year?

[Director] Yes.

[Castro] How much earlier than the plant was the factory completed?

[Director] The factory was completed in 1986.

[Castro] OK. What's your present efficiency quotient?

[Director] The use of the work force? Our efficiency stands at around 73 percent in the spinning mill.

[Castro] No, no, I'm not talking about the utilization of the labor force. I am talking about utilization of capacity.

[Director] Well, you know the plant has different processes. The towel section capacity right now is 75 percent. It is producing 7.5 million towels. The (Balance) plant is producing 6,200 with the new assortment we have now. In other words, it's around 48 percent. The (Wanwemer) plant is working at full capacity, Commander. [end recording]

Other results of the introduction of the new 6-hour system, which is still in the experimental stage, were discussed by the mill director's colleague, the director of the Ariguanabo textile mill.

[Begin recording] [Castro] Was it very hard to mobilize the new force to introduce the four shifts?

[Textile mill director] Commander, that is the main advantage of the 6 hours. Before, we used to go out hunting for people. We had recruiters in the various municipalities. We can now say that 86 percent our work force is from the surrounding area, Corralillo, Bauta, etc. We are giving priority to personnel primarily from Bauta, Corralillo, etc.

[Castro] The people now come looking for jobs.

[Director] They now go there and stand in line. That was not the situation before. [end recording]

Concern About Housing

FL0907125388 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] [Announcer] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, is presiding over the second day of sessions of the meeting for enterprises from

the Havana provinces. The debates have analyzed in detail the problems affecting certain sectors of the economy and they show how much we have advanced since the second meeting was held last year.

The promotion list has traditionally been used to establish a consecutive order in the labor sector. This formula allowed a worker with a certain length of time at his post but with low professional quality to rise to a higher-level, more complicated position which proved to be an unsuitable situation. Representatives of the electronics enterprise in Havana spoke on this topic. They said that this conventional system of promotions was eliminated at their center.

[Begin first speaker recording] There were workers who knew less than others and they held supervisory positions. For example, an operator was over a worker of quality. As we were saying, this operator would cheat on the equipment and the equipment would pass through quality control. What eventually happened is that the workers themselves became aware that they were cheating and this, of course, affected production. This was the primary reason that the workers were against the promotion roster. [end recording]

[Announcer] This experience was also encountered at the La Corona tobacco factory.

[Begin second speaker recording] The tobacco workers accepted the promotion list in general. In addition, the promotion list was decided by position. What was the result of this?

A comrade who reached a certain category, such as the fourth, fifth, sixth category, was placed permanently in that category. A young comrade would enter who, after 6, 7, 8 months, or 1 year, was better skilled than the one who held the higher position, and yet he could not be promoted to the sixth category. He would have to wait until someone in the higher category retired or died to be able to hold the post. This is a setback to developing a worker's interest in advancing his position. It is also a negative factor. [end recording]

[Announcer] The comrades of the electronics enterprise also mentioned the construction of homes by minibrigades. The commander in chief expressed concern about these houses. He asked if they were linked to the work center.

[Begin recording] [Castro] A residential area is under construction there?

[Third speaker] Yes, we now have two minibrigades that are practically right in the forefront of the industry.

[Castro] Are those homes for the workers [vinculadas]? This explains it. When that confounded housing law was passed, the country's interest was emphasized. Certain houses in isolated, distant locations would be designated for workers in order to better stabilize the work force. These houses would not be subject to the same process as other houses, such as in Centro Habana, Vedado, or any other municipality.

Stability is needed in those isolated areas. It is convenient to have the workers live close by, to avoid having thousands of people traveling from Centro Habana or the Vedado to those distant locations. This is the problem.

Many of these matters that we speak about are fluctuations. They damage production and quality. When an idea is developed to promote stability in the work force, we do not concern ourselves. We give a house at the (Balance) spinning mill the same treatment as a house anywhere else, an apartment in Vedado or the city.

There are many places where, because of the distance and the large number of workers, we should link the homes to the jobs. We should not unconditionally trespass property rights because those workers... [corrects himself] those job-linked homes are passed onto the workers after they have been working at the center for several years. As I understand it, they are even charged a little less for those homes.

We have stated in the agricultural sector that houses should be linked to jobs because at the beginning of the revolution, we built towns in the country, in sugarcane areas, or in [words indistinct] areas. After 10 or 15 years, 80 percent of the people who lived there had nothing to do with agricultural work. They were industry workers, drivers, bus drivers. It's very sad to build a town in the country to give stability to the work force, to give the workers a home, and after 10 or 15 years, 80 percent of the people there have nothing to do with agriculture. This is crazy. [end recording]

House Swapping Discouraged

FL0907141688 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2329 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] I remind you that you cannot exchange homes in isolated areas that are linked to work centers because those houses are for the workers in the area; they are not to be swapped, reiterated Commander in Chief Fidel Castro who discussed this topic today at the third meeting of enterprises that continues in this capital.

He stressed that there is a lack of concern for keeping those houses linked to the jobs [vinculadas] and he said that this has happened in several towns. This occurred with (Balance) Spinning Mill houses in Wajay in the Abel Santamaria neighborhood. Someone even had a house there that he only used on weekends.

Minister on Economic Crime, Cadre Policy

FL1207183688 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2353 GMT 8 Jul 88

["Exclusive" interview with Justice Minister Juan Escalona Reguera by Jose Suarez for the "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Suarez] Mr Minister, what can you tell us about the role of justice, of socialist legality; the role of the law in the operation of our enterprises so that they will proceed along the correct path?

[Escalona] I believe that yesterday's meeting [of Havana provinces enterprises] was quite encouraging. There's a fight for legality in the enterprises that marks a different stage, but it also shows that there is a long road ahead. We have enterprises that are beginning to meet the minimal legal requirements for control, accountancy, statistics; in short, it's an attempt to stop what has been happening in many enterprises fostering the commission of violations. We have said that behind every infraction of discipline, order, and control is the violation of a legislative norm, since there is legislation for all of this. As we gain awareness—our administrators demonstrated this yesterday in the control of their inventories—crimes against the economy will be reduced, because we have often said that the fight against this type of crime cannot come from without. The policeman and the prosecutor's office cannot resolve the problem. It has to come from within the enterprise with the measures examined here yesterday that have been adopted by a series of important enterprises in the country.

I believe this is the beginning of a new stage in the work of our enterprises' administration.

[Suarez] Is that one of the essential premises of the new penal code in Cuba for assessing economic crime?

[Escalona] Yes, the modifications in the code provide for increased sanctions for serious economic crimes. We even made it possible for the courts to decree the confiscation of goods when an embezzler or someone who misuses state resources fails to show up in court. This also applies in cases of illegal enrichment. So, just as we have reduced penalties for other types of crimes which, though affecting the population, do not directly harm the main interests of the economy, we have increased penalties and added others in cases of economic crime which are in fact affecting the development that the country must achieve, the stability the country must achieve in the work of its enterprises.

[Suarez] In conclusion: Morals underpin justice. Justice watches out for the full observance of respect for morals. Legally speaking, on what essential values and principles are workers' morals, the productive morals of which our commander in chief has spoken about, based?

[Escalona] We have never doubted the morals of our workers or the spirit of sacrifice and effort of our workers. I think there is a deeper problem. It is our failure to implement the cadre policy approved by the first PCC congress, which has meant retaining unqualified comrades in managerial posts. When the head is not well, additional conditions are created that make all this possible—the diversion of resources, the theft of resources—because of the lack of adequate measures. I think that the implementation of the cadre policy is the basic element so that what Fidel is promoting so strongly can be achieved. Without good heads, there cannot be a good application of these policies. I feel that our people have demonstrated as much many times. They are demonstrating it now. The construction workers, the whole country, is demonstrating it in this rectification process. But we still have cadres who must be looked at very seriously. The day we fully implement the policy handed down by the party in connection with the [words indistinct] cadres, solutions will emerge. They will seem like a miracle. The miracle will be that we will have adequate managers. Here we don't have.... [changes thought] Of course, we cannot speak of miracles in socialism.

Raul Castro Attends FAR School Graduation

FL1107161488 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister, has presided over the graduation ceremony of FAR and Minint [Ministry of the Interior] military training centers which was held at Revolution Square in Havana.

After the awards presentation to student cadets and naval guards [words indistinct], Fernando Morales, from the Jose Marti Military Technical Institute, read the oath for the members of that class called the 35th Anniversary of the Moncada Barracks Assault. Afterward, a group of Pioneers presented the class with flowers and Adiz Carmen Perez from Santiago de Cuba read the greeting.

Lazaro Chavez, first secretary of the UJC [Union of Young Communists] in Havana Province, congratulated the new MinFAR [Ministry of the FAR] and Minint officers and specialists on behalf of his organization.

In conclusion, Roberto Damian Alfonso, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the provincial committee in Granma, said to them that by dedicating themselves to the military service and swearing their loyalty to the fatherland, the people, the party, and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, they have pledged to the most solemn of commitments.

The ceremony ended with a review by the representatives from military training centers who were present at Revolution Square.

When the event ended, Army General Raul Castro Ruz conversed at the Council of State's front steps with a group of graduates who earned gold medals or titles, or

outstanding certificates, and with members of the 6th youth contingent of the Carlos Roloff Polish brigade. The chief of the Polish brigade presented two historical sabers, one for Fidel and one for the FAR minister. In response, Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, kindly greeted them. Then Raul Castro also presented beautiful Granma boat replicas to Pioneers (Mariela Pinos Paez) from Pinar del Rio and Carmen Perez Gonzales from Santiago de Cuba for winning the "Amigos" FAR competition first and second stage, respectively.

Briefs

New Envoy From Iran

Today in Havana the new ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran presented his credentials. His Excellency Seyyed Mahmud Sadri Taba'i was received in formal audience by Comrade Juan Almeida Bosque, vice president of the Council of State. Present at the ceremony was Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. Afterward, the ambassador went to Revolution Square to lay a wreath at the monument to our national hero, Jose Marti. [Text] [*FL1207165788 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jul 88*]

Bahamas

Attorney General Returns Following Surgery
FL1207190088 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The country's attorney general, the Honorable Paul Adderley, is back home. Mr Adderley returned yesterday after undergoing coronary by-pass surgery at the Miami Heart Institute.

Mr Adderley said he feels fine and he is expected to return to his normal duties by (?month's end).

Dominican Republic

Santiago Public Prosecutor Resigns, Replaced
FL1207015788 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Report by Claudio Marquez from Santiago]

[Text] This afternoon the Santiago public prosecutor, Lic Victor Jose Castellanos Estrella, resigned from his post. Castellanos Estrella's resignation comes after the executive branch replaced Lic Genera Oliva Eneficardo of the Santiago Prosecutor's Office of the Santiago Appellate Court. She was replaced by Lic Dulce Rodriguez.

This afternoon Dr Ramon Antonio Guerra, president of the Santiago Lawyers Association, made remarks to Radio Mil "Informando" that Lic Castellanos Estrella (?might) resign.

This situation is attributed to struggles in the midst of the Reformist Party, as well as outside judicial interference. In the opinion of the Lawyers Association, the party is being affected by groups dabbling in politics that are attempting to direct Dominican justice according to their own whims.

It was reported that Castellanos Estrella cleaned out his office in the Santiago Palace of Justice and left without making any public comment.

In the meantime, Lic Rafael Mencosme has been (?appointed) the Santiago public prosecutor. Mencosme was an aide to Castellanos Estrella.

Castellanos Estrella's resignation intensifies the crisis experienced by the Santiago legal sector in the midst of accusations and counteraccusations from groups within the Reformist-Social Christian Party, PRSC. These groups are allegedly disputing the control of the organization and of state institutions.

We repeat: Lic Victor Jose Castellanos Estrella, the public prosecutor of Santiago, resigned this afternoon. His resignation comes after the executive branch replaced Lic Genera Oliva Eneficardo from the prosecutor's office of the Santiago Appellate Court. She was replaced by Lic Dulce Rodriguez.

Private Sector Allowed To Generate Electricity
FL0707163888 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer has announced that his government will allow the private sector to generate electricity. The surprising announcement came on national television late Tuesday.

Mr Balaguer said the move could help his government solve problems with power failures and malfunctions at the government-run electric corporation. He also said that the Dominican Government is negotiating with two American companies for the construction of four electric plants and four natural gas plants.

Grenada

NNP Said Trying To Replace 'Ailing' Blaize
FL1207201688 Bridgetown CANA in English 1804 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, July 12, CANA—Senior officials within Grenada's ruling New National Party (NNP) have sought to replace ailing Prime Minister Herbert Blaize because of fears his leadership could prove a liability to the party in the next general elections, political sources said on Tuesday.

Nicholas Brathwaite, who headed the interim government that ruled Grenada for one year after the 1983 U.S.-led invasion, said he had been approached by unnamed government ministers about being the NNP candidate for the Carriacou seat held by Blaize, but had declined.

Brathwaite's disclosure, in a CANA interview, came as he expressed surprise at a personal attack on him in the latest edition of the NNP's newspaper, THE NATIONAL.

There have been persistent reports of dissatisfaction inside the NNP with the leadership of the 70-year-old Blaize, who uses a wheelchair.

"Before they asked me to join NNP, they told me the party has a serious problem of leadership which will affect the party's chances adversely in the next elections," Brathwaite told CANA.

The respected local educator said he told the NNP representatives that if he were to join NNP under such circumstances, he would be accused, justifiably, of engineering the overthrow of Blaize, especially since they both were from Carriacou.

"It was never suggested to me that I would take over the NNP leadership, but it was said that the leader would have to be got rid of, and I thought it was being mentioned, initially, in the context of the representation of the constituency of Carriacou," he added.

Brathwaite, however, confirmed he was seriously considering contesting the Carriacou seat at the request of persons inside the constituency, but added he had given no thought to joining any party.

He said he planned to discuss with constituents possible party affiliation, as he did not plan to run as an independent.

Opposition leader George Brizan said the article attacking Brathwaite was "the lowest level to which journalism can sink", and was an attempt at character assassination because Brathwaite had spurned the offer to run for the NNP.

It was also "an act of desperation by a dying and unpopular party", added Brizan, a former top NNP member who left last year to form his own party amid differences with Blaize.

Haiti

Human Rights Lawyer Lafontant Joseph Murdered

FL1107210788 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1600 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] One of our reporters will tell us how things went this morning on the airport road after the body of Lafontant Joseph was identified:

[Reporter] This morning Port-au-Prince radio stations announced that a man had been found dead behind the steering wheel of his vehicle in the vicinity of what used to be the El Rancho Cine [drive-in theater] near the airport. The body turned out to be that of lawyer Lafontant Joseph, director of College Eliott Pierre, executive secretary of the Center for the Promotion of Human Rights, former secretary general of the Haitian Human Rights League, and a senatorial candidate in the 29 November elections. [passage omitted]

No one in the area was able to give us any statements on what they saw or heard. I must say that it is a rather isolated area, with not many houses around. [passage omitted]

But according to investigations carried out in the area, it seems he died—or at least started getting beaten—several meters from where his vehicle was found, because there is a large pool of blood several meters from where his body was found in the driver's seat of his car. There is a place where there is blood all over the ground. We saw this. And we also saw a piece of a club.

The justice of the peace was writing up his formal record when the Criminal Investigations Department people appeared, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Baguidy. Baguidy asked the justice of the peace a few questions on what he had found.

However, overall, we can tell you there are no precise statements on how he died. [passage omitted]

CATH Reacts

FL1207203588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] has reacted to the murder of lawyer Lafontant Joseph. In a press release issued yesterday, 11 July, CATH says: Once again, after the murder of lawyer Yves Volel in front of the Criminal Investigations Department on 13 October 1987, the criminals, enemies of Haiti, enemies of democracy, enemies of change, have killed an important personage, an important son of Haiti, Mr Lafontant Joseph, one of the most important soldiers fighting for a long time so that the sun of freedom and justice might truly rise in Haiti. [passage omitted]

Lafontant Joseph and his wife headed the list of all the people to be murdered before 29 July being circulated by the macoutes. This proves that they intend to kill everyone who is struggling to change Haiti. [passage omitted]

CATH asks all lawyers and jurists in Haiti to mobilize, to rise up against this death machine that is sowing mourning and desperation among the Haitian people. CATH asks all political leaders, all true leaders of popular organizations, all neighborhood committees, and, particularly, the church to gather urgently around a single table so that we can reach a national decision permitting us to face the sowers of death.

Too many leaders have fallen in Haiti. There has been too much bloodshed.

CATH asks all 6 million people in Haiti to rise up immediately so that we can find a final solution to the problem that has had Haiti in chaos for the past 31 years.

CATH writes: Long live Haiti. Down with all countries that are providing the assassins with weapons with which to kill the Haitian people's leaders and the Haitian people's sons.

[Signed] For the CATH committee: (Yves Antoine Richard), Secretary General; and (Joseph Manusi Pierre), Secretary for Information

Station Comments

FL1207214988 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] A new crime has just been committed in the capital. This time it is a defender of human rights that they have struck down. The body of lawyer Lafontant Joseph was discovered yesterday morning bathed in its own blood in his red Rocky jeep bearing license No I-2358 on a dirt road near the airport, at the entrance to what used to be the El Rancho drive-in theater.

Joseph, the founder and president of the Center for the Promotion Human Rights and a former secretary general of the Haitian Human Rights League, was murdered on Sunday night. His body bore the marks of all the suffering they inflicted on him. There were stab wounds all over his beaten and mud-covered body. Also found on the body were a few other wounds, which looked like they might be bullet wounds. The vehicle's seats and the front of the vehicle were also covered with blood.

Clothing, shoes, a bloody club, and a big pool of blood were discovered a few meters from Mr Joseph's jeep. This indicates that he was murdered first and then carried to the jeep and put into it.

We were unable to obtain any personal accounts on this serious incident, because the area is uninhabited. When we met yesterday at approximately 1000 with Mrs Lafontant Joseph—Raymonde Joseph, who herself works in the Women's Committee Against Torture—she didn't know anything yet. She told us that Mr Joseph had not returned home the previous night.

He never came home.

The Criminal Investigations authorities were on the scene of the crime yesterday morning. They promised there would be an investigation.

One more investigation.

Mr Lafontant Joseph, a defender of human rights and a member of the bar of Port-au-Prince, always concerned himself with the cases of the weak, of the poor. He was the lawyer of laborers, peasants, and workers in general. With his death, many legal proceedings for which he was the lawyer are left pending.

Joseph had been a candidate for the Senate in the 29 November elections, which could not be held because of the massacre that occurred. Criminals had earlier set fire to the school he ran, College Eliott Pierre, located on Rue des Miracles. Back then, they had threatened to kidnap one of his children if he continued to talk about a number of things.

On 6 June 1988, at 1815, Mr Joseph had come to Radio Soleil's newsroom to tell us: Friends, my life is greatly threatened. That was the last time he came to Radio Soleil. He told us back then that there were people calling him non-stop on the phone to tell him that they were going to kill him that very night, 6 June 1988. They said, furthermore, that nothing nor anyone could prevent them from assassinating him. We reported this matter that same day in our 2030 newscast.

Is Sunday night's incident the outcome of all those threats made against Mr Lafontant Joseph? Reviewing all the crimes that have occurred one after the other since 1986—without the murderers as yet having encountered the slightest problem—the killing of Mr Lafontant Joseph sadly reminds people of the murder of Louis Eugene Athis, former leader of the Modelh [Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti], who was murdered on (?12) August 1987 in (Opak), near Leogane. It reminds people of the murder of lawyer Yves Volel, who was shot and killed on the morning of 13 October 1987 in front of the police station in the heart of the capital. And it reminds people of the massacre of 29 November 1987, which also occurred in broad daylight, early in the morning, in the heart of Port-au-Prince.

PUCH's Theodore Criticizes Namphy Government

FL1207212288 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Almost 3 weeks after former President Leslie Manigat was overthrown by a military coup d'etat, the Unified Party of Haitian Communists [PUCH] believes that the government in power is a dictatorship with democratic pretensions. PUCH said this in an analysis of the country's overall situation during a press conference at its headquarters yesterday. The PUCH bases this conclusion on the fact that the government speaks—albeit they always do—of democratic freedoms and social and economic progress. The PUCH's opinion is also based on certain achievements since 7 February, such as freedom of the press and the freedom to organize, although it says there are many limitations in those areas, such as the difficulties people encounter in the provinces in assembling and organizing and the difficulties workers have in forming unions.

Regarding the government's decision to cancel the Constitution of 29 March, the PUCH asks for greater elucidation, in order to be able to (?discuss) how credible the Constitution will be. PUCH points out the contradiction that exists between statements made in the name of this Constitution and its simultaneous violation.

[Begin recording of PUCH Secretary General Rene Theodore] But the precise arguments, the precise points involved, are not given. He does not give them. And yet the general swore allegiance to the Constitution, along with all the other leaders. When Manigat was overthrown, they accused him of violating the Constitution; therefore they overthrew him. And yet the general said the Constitution (?is no good). [laughter]

We can understand how there might be people who feel that there are things in the Constitution which are not fair, not good. They should have come right out and explained, stated it outright to the people. Any private citizen has a right to call attention to a problem in the nation's Constitution. It is a law. That means it is something that can be amended, whenever the society has evolved to the point where the law (?obviously needs to be) amended. But in that case, what is wrong with it must be stated clearly, and the entire nation must give its opinion on what is being faulted in the Constitution. Therefore, it does not suffice for them to say they must revise the Constitution. They must say what they are going to revise in it. [passage omitted]

Thus, this also poses a problem of credibility for the (?institution), in the sense of transparency, of speaking out clearly on any number of things, so that the people will know that it is not a maneuver behind their backs, when jargon is used about the Constitution or anything else. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mr Theodore asked for all organizations to fight to reach a national (?decision) based on the lessons he has learned over the past 2 and ½ years from the movements that have unfolded since 7 February.

Regarding the credible institutions mentioned by the general when he spoke, Theodore deplored the fact that he spoke only to educated people and that the masses were not able to understand what he said. He thinks that the masses should participate in everything that happens in Haiti as a matter of course.

Theodore broached the problem of the students who did not participate in the 1987 baccalaureate exams and who are now the victims of the Ministry of Education's 30 June decision, which to the PUCH, as well as to several other organizations, looks like an act of revenge on those students, who were fighting for democracy in Haiti.

Speaking for the PUCH, Mr Theodore declared himself to be in solidarity with those students, and he asked all sectors of the society to take a stand in favor of the students. He also called for the setting up of a people's university so that those students could become capable and competent enough to save Haiti.

[Begin Theodore recording] [Passage omitted] We lack universities. The university can only take 3,000 students. Where are you going to put all those students, who have finished (?school)? [passage omitted]

We ourselves felt that they should come up with something still more advanced. Today we must talk about the urgent need that exists for a people's university in Haiti. Yes, a people's university, because the existing university cannot absorb all the students from Philo Class, even if all of last year's students don't take the test. [passage omitted]

The only solution is a people's university. Throughout Haiti and even in Port-au-Prince, all school teachers and everyone who has [words indistinct] knowledge, and capability—everyone who possesses these things—should teach, should set up a committee together to run a people's university. They should arrange, should organize the possibility of their passing on this knowledge. [end recording]

The PUCH demands that the government practice what it preaches, before people believe in it.

Thus, in a way, we must wait and see what is going to be organized, see what this government with democratic pretensions, as Theodore called it, is going to do.

Wait, just as people have been doing for a long time—the way they waited yesterday, are waiting today, and will perhaps still be waiting tomorrow.

St Lucia

Government Removes Stamp Duty on Imports

FL0707184988 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] St Lucia has removed its stamped duty on imports in compliance with an agreement reached Tuesday by Caricom heads of government.

A spokesman for the St Lucia Trade Ministry says a service charge of 1 percent will be levied on all imports to compensate for the loss of revenue. Caricom members have agreed to remove all trade barriers in the region by 1 October. The St Lucia Trade Ministry spokesman said that the existing duty has affected exporters leaving them open to retaliation by other Caricom member countries.

De la Madrid Says Elections Mark New Phase

PA1307043988 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Report by Cynthia Lars]

[Excerpt] Today President Miguel de la Madrid presided at the ceremony to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Lawyer's Day. He said that the Mexicans fulfilled the commitment to hold a renewed electoral process and that in accordance with the Constitution and the laws, the elections were orderly, peaceful, and clean. He said that the campaign strengthened political pluralism.

[Begin De la Madrid recording, in progress] ...and it is producing a recomposition of forces and the parties that represent them. This important electoral renovation marks the beginning of a new phase of our political system, a more competitive, open, and democratic phase. We have achieved and will continue to achieve this under conditions of order and freedom. [end recording]

He added that despite the economic difficulties, we have responded to the crisis with more democracy and more freedom, and the results of the elections show the civic spirit of all Mexicans.

[Begin De la Madrid recording] I urge authorities and parties to be consistent and honest in the successive phases of the process so as to truly respond to this commitment. Let us consolidate what has been achieved. Let us fulfill our responsibility with seriousness and maturity while at all times adhering strictly to the law. [end recording]

He said that the results demonstrate both a recomposition in the parties and new horizons in the relations between the executive and legislative branches, which will give us greater balance. He added that the training phase will be difficult but that we Mexicans will overcome this challenge, and we will live in a more democratic and pluralistic system, open to the new realities in our country. President de la Madrid said he fulfilled his commitment to strengthen revolutionary nationalism through legislative work and promoted national renewal with absolute respect for the legal system, respecting rights and freedoms that we Mexicans established in the Constitution. He reiterated his unyielding faith in the legal order, the irreplaceable pillar of a society that guarantees national sovereignty, individual freedoms, and social rights as well as overall democracy and social justice. He added that under these principles we want to continue living and building our national revolutionary project in an orderly society, within the broadest respect for our legal system. [passage omitted]

Electoral Commission Reports Partial Results

Presidential Election

PA1307045288 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Report by Isabel Samorano]

[Excerpt] The Federal Electoral Commission [CFE] announced that as of yesterday, at the conclusion of the vote-counting process in 283 electoral districts, Carlos Salinas de Gortari had secured 8,120,220 votes. According to the CFE, these are the results emerging after the counting of 78.30 percent of the polling tables installed throughout the country:

Carlos Salinas de Gortari so far has 53.5 percent of the votes; Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, of the National Democratic Front (FDN), has 3,950,377 votes, that is, 26 percent; and Manuel J. Clouthier [presidential candidate of the National Action Party, PAN] has 2,430,000 votes, or 16 percent.

According to the CFE, on 6 July, 19 million votes were cast. This means that there was approximately 50 percent absenteeism. Up to last night, the opposition had won 42 of the 283 districts where votes had already been counted. Twenty-six were won by the PAN; 11 by the leftist parties' coalition; and the remaining 5 were won by the PPS [Popular Socialist Party] and the PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution]. [passage omitted]

Legislative Elections

PA1207141788 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1310 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Only 17 electoral districts remain to be counted in the legislative elections. Out of a total of 283 electoral districts where votes have already been counted by the CFE, 39 have been won by opposition parties: 29 by the PAN [National Action Party], 9 by the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party [PFCRN], and 1 by the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution. The CFE has begun a recess and will resume its sessions on Wednesday.

PAN won legislative seats in the following districts out of a total of 283 districts where votes have already been counted:

Federal District: Districts 1, 5, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 20, 27, 29, and 36, for a total of 11.

Mexico State: Districts 6, 14, 18, and 33.

Chihuahua State: Districts 4 and 8.

Guanajuato State: Districts 1, 2, 3, 9, and 10.

Jalisco: Districts 3, 13, 14, 15, and 20.

Sinaloa: District 3.

Yucatan: District 1.

In total, the PAN won in 29 districts.

Meanwhile, the National Democratic Front won legislative seats in the following districts:

Federal District: District 37.

Mexico State: District 3 by the PPS-PRT [Popular Socialist Party- Revolutionary Workers Party] coalition and District 8 by the PPS-PFCRN coalition.

Hidalgo: District 3 by the PFCRN-PARM coalition.

Michoacan: District 9 by the PMS [Mexican Socialist Party]-PARM coalition, District 12 by the PPS-PFCRN-PMS coalition, and District 13 by the PARM-PFCRN coalition.

Morelos: Districts 1 and 3 by the PPS-PARM-PFCRN coalition.

In total, the FDN won in 9 districts.

In addition, the PARM won in District 15 in Veracruz State.

In this manner, the opposition has won legislative seats in 39 districts: the PAN, 29; the FDN, 9; and the PARM, 1. Meanwhile, the PRI has won in 244 of the 283 districts where votes have already been counted. Only 17 out of a total of 300 districts remain to be counted.

Cardenas To Form Group; Says Ballots Destroyed

PA1307044288 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jul (AFP)—Today opposition candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said the organizations that support his presidential candidacy have "formed a coordinating body to defend the popular will" and to "impede the usurpation" of his victory. Cardenas added that his supporters "will not recognize the officials elected as a result of this electoral fraud."

Cardenas spoke to demonstrators at the Solidarity Plaza in the center of Mexico City this afternoon. He said the "ballots cast at the polls have been found floating in rivers and in garbage cans," adding that "the first in a series of large demonstrations that will lead us to victory will be held" on 16 July.

The opposition candidate charged that votes "cast by many of us who voted for democracy and progress were not only taken out of the ballot boxes," but they are "trying to record them as having never been cast." He noted that the struggle for legality will be "a long one."

Cardenas told demonstrators—mostly youths carrying banners from leftist parties, such as the Mexican Socialist Party and the Cardenist Front for the National Reconstruction Party—that "our rights are going to be respected and we are not going to be pushed aside."

PRI candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari was declared winner of the elections based on preliminary results provided by the Federal Electoral Commission.

Terrorist Attack on Greek Ship Condemned

FL1307000588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2253 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Mexico, 12 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Today the Mexican Government expressed its strongest condemnation of the criminal terrorist attack against hundreds of tourists traveling on a Greek ship in the Aegean Sea on 11 July.

Today the Mexican Foreign Secretariat (SRE) said that in accordance with the principles that guide Mexican foreign policy, the government repudiates this type of unjustifiable act and expresses its solidarity with the Greek Government and the families of the victims.

The SRE text adds that the Mexican Government is calling on the international community to redouble efforts to prevent similar acts and calls on the parties involved in international conflicts to find a solution through dialogue and negotiation in accordance with universally accepted international laws.

Costa Rica

Madrigal: Nicaragua Expulsions 'Deplorable'

PA1307015088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2345 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] San Jose, 12 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto characterized as "deplorable" the expulsion from Nicaragua of eight U.S. diplomats, including U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton, who were accused of meddling in the domestic affairs of that country.

Following a meeting with White House roving Ambassador Morris Busby, Madrigal Nieto said that Washington's expulsion of Carlos Tunnerman, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States, and of another seven Nicaraguan diplomats "is a normal act of reprisal" between countries.

The Costa Rican foreign minister characterized the temporary closing of Radio Catolica and the opposition daily LA PRENSA as well as the arrest during a demonstration this past Sunday of political leaders as "negative" for the Central American peace process. Madrigal Nieto said: "These events are a source of concern for us. They negatively affect the letter and spirit of Esquipulas II and are contrary to the democratic efforts all Central Americans should make." [passage omitted]

Money Laundering Cases Under Investigation

PA1207131188 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 3 Jul 88 p 8

[Excerpts] Security Minister Hernan Garron has admitted that his ministry is investigating at least five more current cases of money laundering in Costa Rica. [passage omitted]

No further details were made available about the cases under investigation. Attempts to contact Minister Garron yesterday were fruitless, because he was reported to be out of town.

Because of this, no details were obtained with regard to people or firms involved, the length of time involved in the "laundering," dates when the investigations began, or other information on the cases cited by Garron. [passage omitted]

The fact that investigations are under way was confirmed by Commissioner Rodolfo Jimenez of the Narcotics Control Office [Control de Drogas] and DIS [Intelligence and Security Directorate] Director Sergio Fernandez, who said that "investigations on money laundering in the country" will continue. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

Archbishop Defends Debate Against Detractors

PA1107135088 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1749 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Jul (DPA)—Today Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, defended the church's peace initiative, which is based on a national debate, against his detractors in the country's conservative groups.

The archbishop did not mention names, but he was tacitly referring to an open letter from the Salvadoran Coffee Growers Association to Msgr Marco Rene Revelo, president of the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference. The letter says a national debate for peace proposed by the archbishop only favors "the pseudorevolutionary forces that want to install a 'popular forum' to legitimize the actions of the subversives," a clear reference to the guerrillas and their political allies.

Today, at the conclusion of his homily, Rivera y Damas said that this peace initiative aims to begin talks, not enforce solutions, and that it is part of a church policy to find ways to end the war that has ravaged the country for 8 years. "We have been accepted as mediators of this conflict by the Armed Forces, the government, and the insurgents," the archbishop said. This reinforces the moral value of the national debate to try to find a common formula for peace in El Salvador that could serve as a basis for a fourth round of talks between the government and the rebels, he explained.

According to the coffee growers, the church sent the organizations invited to participate in the debate a questionnaire that is basically political. That is why they tell the president of the Episcopal Conference that a national debate violates the Constitution, which bans the church from participating in politics. Another point questioned by the coffee growers is that the church has invited many organizations that the conservatives and extreme rightists label as guerrilla "front organizations."

All this was rejected by Archbishop Rivera y Damas today. He said the invitation was extended to the largest possible number of groups, including those that are excluded from other initiatives.

He said that after all the responses are in—that is, when all questionnaires are completed, which will provide the "raw material" for the working document—a summary will be prepared with the greatest objectivity and impartiality. He noted, however, that the summary will emphasize the points of agreement, because peace must be built on these. The archbishop said that of all the groups invited, only two have declined to answer the questionnaire. Rivera y Damas added that 25 new groups have already been taken into consideration, and questionnaires have been sent to them so they will make their contributions to this national debate for peace.

Ungo on Elections, FMLN Ties, U.S. Actions

PA1307024488 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Interview with FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Dr Ungo, we were talking specifically about the FMLN-FDR alliance. Will you participate in the upcoming elections if the guerrillas continue to reject them and boycott them?

[Ungo] This is something I do not know—not now, at least. I suppose there will be some similarities between our proposals and the FMLN's positions. I think there must be some points on which we agree, such as a realization that our participation in the elections may be an instrument, an important, useful tool in reaching a political solution. And if we agree that [words indistinct], we should agree on working to create conditions to facilitate a political solution. There should be basic agreement or understanding between us.

On the other hand, I suppose there will be differences, which we should mutually respect. The FMLN is a political but also a military organization. Our organization is strictly political. We work exclusively with political means. For this reason, I think there are certain differences. We have politics in common but differ on one thing: the military aspect. In other words, their nature is somewhat different, and this prevents us from fully agreeing on every line of action we have to pursue. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] On another subject, Doctor, what is your opinion of the upcoming meeting of foreign ministers [words indistinct] that has been called by the U.S. secretary of state?

[Ungo] This will be a forerunner of the meeting of Central American heads of state, which has been scheduled for August. I think the U.S. interference is already evident. The United States is acting like a permanent tutor. This meeting will be a tutelage, the purpose of which will be [for the United States] to keep watch and to try to control the behavior of the Central American governments. I think that all Mr Shultz wants to do is to prevent the occurrence of a new gesture of regional autonomy, like the one that occurred in Guatemala when the Esquipulas II agreements were signed. In other words, he is trying to keep Central Americans from adopting national and regional positions of their own, autonomous and independent positions, and also trying to make us tools of the policy and interests of the big power.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] a news conference you said that the United States is the main enemy of [words indistinct].

[Ungo] No, what I said is that they are chiefly responsible for the prolongation of the war. I do not think we should view the United States, or even its government, as an enemy. They do view us as such, with the rationale that he who is not my serf is my enemy. In other words, they want us to be serfs of their interests; otherwise they consider us enemies. I feel they are and will always be our neighbor because we cannot change geography; therefore, we must learn to relate to each other. I think we mutually need each other. Even though we are small, the United States needs a positive relationship with Latin America and Central America; however, we cannot agree to being seen as a prolongation of their borders, as their backyard. We have said that the United States is an elephant. It is like an elephant, which is capable of crushing us whether it is in a bad or a good mood. We have to find a way to understand each other and to keep the elephant from crushing us. In this regard, I think the United States must be made to understand that Latin America is looking for a stronger identity of its own.

[Reporter] To conclude, Dr Ungo, do you think the Esquipulas II plan is stagnant?

[Ungo] Yes, but not dead. I think it has possibilities. It is precisely because it has possibilities that Mr Shultz is so concerned and so bent on sabotaging it.

100 Injured in Union Demonstration in Soyapango

PA1207203288 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Here is a last minute report: This morning approximately 100 people were hurt during a demonstration at the Agua Caliente Hydroelectrical Plant in Soyapango.

According to UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] leader Humberto Centeno, COACES [Confederation of Cooperative Associations of El Salvador] and UNTS members were attacked by antiriot police during a demonstration supporting CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] union leaders. Centeno said the incidents began at noon, and he requested Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas' urgent intervention.

It was also reported that three unidentified workers were arrested during the demonstration, which, according to the union leaders, was put down by Treasury Police officers.

Guatemala

Foreign Minister on Recent Events in Nicaragua

PA1307034088 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Today Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo said he is somewhat concerned about the turn the situation in Central America is taking as a result of the Sandinist government's decision to close several

communications media and to expel the U.S. ambassador. The Guatemalan foreign minister indicated that these aspects will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of Central American foreign ministers, which presumably will be held on 1 August. [passage omitted]

Coup Attempt Charges Against Officers Dismissed
PA1207231588 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Jul 88 p 4

[Text] Yesterday the 4th branch of the Court of Appeals decided to dismiss charges against the six people who participated in the 11 May coup attempt.

The judges ordered the release of the defendants, many of whom were either in prison or free on bond. They were accused of engaging in a thwarted rebellion, according to records on file at the military attorney's office. The defendants were: Colonel Carlos Garavito Moran, former director of the Adolfo V Hall Institute in Jutiapa; Colonel Neftali Antonio Galvez Cortez, former commander of the Retalhuleu Military Zone; Colonel Gustavo Adolfo Cifuentes, former commander in Jutiapa; Major Manuel Maria Gordillo Martinez, S-3 in Retalhuleu; Lieutenant Colonel Gustavo Adolfo Padilla Morales; and Lieutenant Miguel Angel Acevedo Portillo.

They were all formally charged with being involved in the uprising, which caused a national and international stir and was aimed at overthrowing the present regime headed by Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo. As is known, the rebellion was unsuccessful.

The resolution was signed and issued yesterday afternoon by the following magistrates: Alfredo Enrique Figueroa Tobar, president; Guillermo Augusto Paz Fernandez and Angel Alfredo Joaquin Quiyuch, first and second members respectively; and Colonel Mauricio Rolando Izquierdo Gudiel and Eng Joaquin Humberto Maldonado de los Angeles, military members.

The judges ordered the immediate release of Gustavo Adolfo Cifuentes Dardon, Miguel Angel Acevedo Portillo, and another defendant, who did not appeal. The other defendants were released on bond yesterday by the court. The Attorney General's office and the defense lawyers of the indicted military personnel were also notified.

The resolution added that the enjoyment of all basic and human rights of the former defendants would be recognized as called for in all international treaties signed and ratified by Guatemala and as stated in our country's political constitution.

The court-martial based its verdict on the amnesty contained in Decree No 32-88, published yesterday in the official newspaper.

Nicaragua

Ortega: OAS Should Resolve Tunnerman Expulsion
PA1307011488 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2329 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Interview with President Daniel Ortega by unidentified reporter at Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua during award ceremony for Swedish ambassador to Nicaragua—live]

[Text] [Ortega] [Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United States Carlos Tunnerman] was called to the State Department [words indistinct] embassy in Washington [words indistinct], who was notified by the U.S. Government that both he and seven officials of our embassy must leave U.S. territory within 72 hours.

In other words, with this action, the United States is acting in clear reprisal for the just measure adopted here in Nicaragua against U.S. officials, including the ambassador, who are plotting against our people, our government, and our country. No one can accept that Ambassador Tunnerman and our officials are plotting against the U.S. Government. In other words, there is no clear charge or proof showing this. Therefore, we describe this as a reprisal.

In addition, our ambassador was given that note from Washington [words indistinct] and another note from Washington notifying Ambassador Tunnerman and the comrade representative of Nicaragua to the Inter-American Defense Board that because they do not exhibit appropriate or correct conduct, they cannot remain in U.S. territory.

In other words, with this action, the United States is trying to violate, to interfere with the OAS and to determine who will be the representatives in this organization, which does not belong to the United States and which does not constitute a bilateral relationship with the United States. Instead, it is a Latin American multilateral organization. It wants to decide who represents and who does not represent the Nicaraguan Government in the OAS.

We simply do not accept from any standpoint this U.S. demand that our ambassador to the OAS leave U.S. territory. He is our representative to the OAS, and we are going to resolve this problem within the OAS. If necessary, we will call for an emergency meeting of the OAS Permanent Council so it will discuss this topic. We are not going to accept this interference in the OAS. This would be a very grave precedent for Latin American countries. We would be returning to the days when the OAS was a U.S. tool and when the United States determined OAS policy.

We clearly view this as a reprisal; of course, the Nicaraguan Government has to heed the U.S. Government's decision to not recognize our representative before the

U.S. Government. In other words, in reprisal, they have decided to not recognize our representative before the U.S. Government [words indistinct]. Up to this point, we understand this [words indistinct], but the Nicaraguan Government does not find understandable or acceptable that the United States now says that Ambassador Tunnerman, who is our ambassador to the OAS, cannot continue being ambassador to the OAS. [Words indistinct] ambassador to the OAS.

That is the prerogative of the Nicaraguan Government, and that is what we are going to defend in the OAS so that [words indistinct] what would be a violation of a multilateral organization in which all the Latin American and Caribbean countries and the United States participate and in which the United States cannot be the one deciding who will be an ambassador. Therefore, as I said earlier, we are even willing to call an emergency meeting of the OAS Permanent Council to address this subject. Here we are [words indistinct] autonomy, dignity, and sovereignty of the Latin American countries.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] Well, as an (?instance) of U.S. provocation, of military escalation through terrorism, through Somozism, which has been [words indistinct], and at a time when Reagan is bent on not ending his administration without first causing more harm to the Nicaraguan people.

Further Comments

PA1307014688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0008 GMT 13 Jul 88

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters at Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua on 12 July—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr President, what kind of battle will Nicaragua wage?

[Ortega] We have to wage a battle for Latin America and the Caribbean. The United States cannot be the one to determine who will represent the Latin American governments at the OAS. It cannot say who will represent a Latin American country or a Caribbean country in that organization. The OAS does not belong to the United States. The OAS belongs to the Americas. It belongs to the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. The United States, logically, also participates [in the OAS]. The OAS has its headquarters in the United States, in Washington, but this fact does not give the United States any special rights. This has been clearly established. The United States has no power to decide who is named ambassador to the OAS.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Ortega] [passage indistinct]

[Reporter] Will the government call for a meeting of the OAS Council?

[Ortega] That depends on how things develop. If the United States insists on ignoring this right of the Government of Nicaragua, as an OAS member country, we will convoke the Permanent Council.

[Reporter] Has Nicaragua reported this situation to other Latin American governments?

[Ortega] We are reporting it publicly at this moment, and we will send letters from Foreign Minister D'Escoto and myself to the Latin American and Caribbean presidents. [Nicaraguan Ambassador to the United States Carlos Tunnerman] was our ambassador to the OAS before this incident took place. It is clear that the U.S. Government's expulsion of Ambassador Tunnerman and seven other members of our embassy is not justified and has no legal basis. This is merely an act of reprisal resulting from the just decision made by the Nicaraguan Government.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] to react now?

[Ortega] Their position is to exacerbate the war. In this specific case, we are going to defend the presence of our ambassador to the OAS and the presence of our representative before the Inter-American Defense Board, [name indistinct]. This battle will be waged within the juridical framework furnished by the OAS, and we are certain we will have the support of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Reaction to Expulsions, Media Closing

Foreign Minister

PA1207190788 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 12 Jul 88

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto by unidentified reporter on 11 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Today the Nicaraguan Government decided to declare U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton persona non grata. Father Miguel D'Escoto, why was this step taken?

[D'Escoto] Our government and the Nicaraguan people's revolution have been very patient. The world is witness to this. But there comes a time when this patience is spread too thin. Mr Melton not only represents a government that behaves like an international bandit, ignores the basic rules of civilized coexistence among nations, disregards international law, refuses to abide by the International Court of Justice's ruling, and finances the systematic killing of our people, but he also came to Nicaragua and tried to behave as if he were on a cattle ranch in the United States. He has tried to behave in the same manner that the U.S. ambassadors in Honduras, El

Salvador, and who knows how many other places behave. But here in Nicaragua we cannot tolerate this. We will never tolerate this kind of behavior.

This man, not really a very intelligent man, is the only U.S. ambassador who has been sent to our country since the triumph of the revolution whom I would describe as dim-witted. We know that this man was previously a very close collaborator of the world-renowned maniac Elliott Abrams. This man has come here and has tried to organize an internal front. He has come here to cover up what they consider to be a lack of leadership among their domestic puppets. He came thinking that since the Sandinists are so patient, they will do nothing, because they do not want to expel him. He was probably led to believe this.

[Reporter] Why Melton? Why not the other ambassadors?

[D'Escoto] That is what I am trying to explain. Melton is different. The other ambassadors did not act the way Melton has acted. We had some incidents that merited a protest note; however, this man outdid all the other former ambassadors.

[Reporter] What kind of reprisals are you expecting?

[D'Escoto] It is a joke to talk about reprisals to be taken by a government that maintains a policy of systematically killing the people. What more can they do? What could be worse than what they have been doing? What could be worse than what happened this morning and yesterday? Nicaraguan youths are dying every day.

[Reporter] Why were diplomatic relations not broken?

[D'Escoto] When we took this step, we abided by the Vienna Convention. However, we are not abandoning, nor will we ever abandon, our search to normalize bilateral relations with the United States by means of a dialogue. We will never give up the possibility of a direct dialogue with the United States. You may ask, how can we never give up this possibility if it has never existed? Well, we are going to continue struggling for that direct dialogue.

[Reporter] The last time something like this happened, the United States expelled almost half of our diplomatic mission. What will happen now?

[D'Escoto] Anything is possible coming from the United States. They are capable of doing things that we can't even imagine. Therefore, I won't even try to guess what they will do. They will do what they deem necessary. We had to do something. We can no longer do things depending on what they will or will not do. There came the time when our patience ran out and we had to act.

[Reporter] Is this a message for the domestic opposition as well?

[D'Escoto] What domestic opposition? Domestic opposition is a phrase used only by the United States. Those people are contras, civilian terrorists, terrorists dressed in civilian clothing who kill our people. I have seen those people on U.S. television calling for a direct intervention. That COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] man called [Ramiro] Gurdian—I don't know his whole name, but I have his statements recorded on a cassette that I receive every week—was asked whether he would approve of a direct intervention. He answered yes. This kind of person cannot be called a domestic opposition. They are traitors to the homeland; they have betrayed their homeland. That is what they are.

[Reporter] What did Melton have to say?

[D'Escoto] Oh, he said that this was a very strong step. He said we had taken a very strong step. I do not think it is that strong, however. It is nothing compared to his government's policy of systematically killing our people. That policy of state terrorism has been condemned by the International Court of Justice. You do not see a Nicaraguan diplomat accredited in the United States behaving the way Melton did. I therefore do not think it was too strong a measure.

Our meeting was very short. He did not have much to say, and I was really not in the mood to talk. I told him to read the letter when he got home. I told him that I would not read the letter to him and that I would just tell him what it was all about: You have 72 hours to leave the country. All he had to say was: The record speaks for itself. I wonder what record he was referring to—probably the record of deaths in Nicaragua, the thousands of victims of U.S. policy; the record of his meeting with those groups to incite them to organize and complement the campaign of terrorism that (?he is directing.) What record he was referring to?

Opposition, Obando

PA1207233788 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2217 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Managua, 12 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today leaders of 14 opposition political parties rejected the Nicaraguan Government's charges that they are involved in an alleged destabilization plan called the "Melton plan" that seeks the overthrow of the Sandinist regime.

According to the government, this plan is prompted by U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton, who was declared persona non grata by the Sandinist authorities on Monday and will be leaving the country within the next few hours.

The leaders of the 14 parties, some of which are represented in the parliament and some of which are not, and all of which comprise the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board (CDN), argued that the government, with

its "slanderous charges," wants to "prevent the civic opposition from making use of its right to protest hunger and oppression in the country."

A statement by the leaders of the opposition bloc indicated that by accusing them of implementing a plan sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, the government "wants to deceive the international public and to claim that the demands by the Nicaraguan opposition are not legitimate."

These 14 opposition parties have political beliefs that are sometimes antagonistic, but they are united in their demands for 14 reforms of the Constitution, which they believe are essential for the country's democratization.

"We struggle for democracy, but we are not servile to U.S. officials," because while that country "defends its national security, we, the opposition, defend freedom," Alberto Saborio, one of the CDN leaders, said.

Regarding the expulsion of Ambassador Melton and seven other U.S. officials, Saborio said that "in order to distort the opposition struggle, the government has invented the Melton plan. It has been forced to expel him to justify the charges it has made."

In a news conference, the opposition members confirmed that on Thursday, they will travel to Costa Rica to explain to President Oscar Arias all the points in the Esquipulas II accords that the Managua government has not fulfilled.

They added that they will not ask Arias to intervene in Nicaragua's domestic affairs but will present to him a document explaining that there has been a regression in the area of public liberties since the signing of the Esquipulas accords by the five Central American presidents on 7 August 1987.

"We will explain to President Arias, creator of the peace agreements, the right that we opposition members have to seek all options, including that of speaking with Central American or extraregional leaders to achieve peace in Nicaragua," they said.

Meanwhile, Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo asked the government to reconsider the order to close LA PRENSA for 15 days and to close Radio Catolica, the Managua archdiocese's station, for an indefinite period.

The Nicaraguan cardinal also asked for the release of the 42 opposition members who were arrested on Sunday during the clash between the opposition and the police in Nandaime, a town 66 km southwest of Managua.

Obando y Bravo spoke to the press during an informal meeting of the National Reconciliation Commission, which he chairs and which was created by virtue of the Esquipulas II accords.

Regarding the government declaring Ambassador Melton persona non grata, the cardinal said that although the government has every right to adopt such a measure, he believes the U.S. officials' expulsion will bring more tension to Nicaragua.

Marxist Deputy

PA1207233888 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMt 12 Jul 88

[Interview with Carlos Cuadra Cuadra, Marxist-Leninist People's Action Movement deputy, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] [Words indistinct] Ambassador Melton?

[Cuadra] The Marxist-Leninist Movement has pointed out several times that the Sandinist government is to be blamed for providing a political opening, not only for foreign powers, allowing them to interfere with Nicaragua's domestic affairs, but for forces organized by those very foreign powers within the country's interior.

We rejected the Esquipulas agreements and pointed out that they acted as an open door to intervention in Nicaragua. Proof of this has become increasingly evident over the past few months when representatives of several international political powers—specifically, representatives of U.S. imperialism—have come to our country to promote the counterrevolutionaries' cause.

We could say that this measure of declaring the U.S. ambassador persona non grata arrived late and somewhat contradicts the Sandinist government's position at Esquipulas and Sapoa, which was precisely to provide openings for those forces. This measure, although late, is an attempt to check what the Sandinist government itself has advocated, this is to say, the participation of the counterrevolutionary forces in domestic politics.

This is our first assessment of the measure, which we fully back. However, we call on the Nicaraguan people to monitor the political activities of those internal forces. We should not wait for the police to do the job of watching those forces closely.

[Reporter] What about the government's closing of the communications media, which were at the service of Melton's group?

[Cuadra] I think those news media never served the Nicaraguan people, but foreign and pro-imperialist interests. Consequently, this closing, in addition to being temporary, does not resolve the problem of those political activities, which run counter to the interests of the Nicaraguan people. This political opening was given to them legally and in accordance with the Constitution. Of course, they have taken advantage of this opening to continue to harm the political process. This is why we say that these administrative measures do not resolve the

problem we have presented. These media should be in the hands of the people, not in those of the counterrevolutionary forces. [passage omitted]

RN's R. Ferrey

PA1207210188 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1855 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Interview with Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Directorate Secretary Roberto Ferrey by Alejandro Acevedo; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ferrey] The arrest of the Nicaraguan opposition leaders is yet another sign of the Sandinists' repressive and undemocratic attitude, which is alien to the spirit of Esquipulas II. The case of the U.S. diplomat is nothing but a propaganda ploy. The Sandinists are accusing the United States to try to hide the truth. The truth is that the Nicaraguan people are fed up with the Sandinists and have taken to the streets. We have seen in newspapers and on television common people throwing stones at the EPS and Sandinist guards. That is the truth the Sandinists are trying to hide by creating a diplomatic uproar by expelling some U.S. diplomats and blaming them for the Nandaime incidents.

The truth is that the Nicaraguan people are fed up and have taken to the streets. The Sandinists had to resort to their own Sandinist guards. The Sandinist hordes are no longer able to face the Nicaraguan people who have taken to the streets. The people have taken over the streets. As the Sandinists say, the streets belong to the people. However, now the real people have taken over the streets. The Sandinist hordes are powerless. The Sandinists had to use the Sandinist guards. The actions by the Sandinist regime closely resemble those of the Somozist dictatorship.

[Acevedo] Dr Ferrey, does the new repression by the Sandinist regime rule out the possibility of a new round of talks between the Sandinist regime and the RN?

[Ferrey] This attitude makes any negotiation even more difficult. It is interesting to note that the Sandinists closed LA PRENSA for 2 weeks. This means that the suspension ends on 25 or 26 July. These are the dates proposed by the Sandinists for a new meeting. In other words, if they had not proposed those particular dates, the newspaper's closing would have been for a longer period of time.

However, they must make an international spectacle. Because Humberto Ortega proposed a meeting for 27 July, LA PRENSA's closing order must end before 26 July. The closing of Radio Catolica and the 2-week closing of LA PRENSA only serve to demonstrate that the Sandinists have no intention of complying with Esquipulas II. And now, 11 months after the signing of those agreements, they are shamelessly violating them.

This is the time for Mr Oscar Arias and the other Central American presidents—but mainly Oscar Arias, who is most to blame or who is mostly responsible for this entire peace initiative—to speak out. They must denounce what is happening in Nicaragua. On 7 August, the four democratic presidents cannot sit down with that dictator Ortega on an equal footing. This is the time for the Central American presidents to speak out on what is happening in Nicaragua.

BARRICADA, EL NUEVO DIARIO on Nandaime

PA1207214088 [Editorial Report] Prior to the Rio Blanco and Nandaime incidents, Managua BARRICADA in Spanish on 9 July publishes a 750-word report on page 6 charging that peasant, labor, women, and student leaders reported "yesterday" that "the U.S. Embassy has given each political party 180,000 cordobas to prepare for the Sunday meeting in Nandaime. The money will be used to bribe people to participate in the 'portable' demonstration." On 10 July BARRICADA publishes a 200-word report on page 5 quoting Commander of the Revolution Victor Tirado, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, during a meeting with health sector workers. According to the report, Tirado said: The Melton plan "will not destroy the Sandinist revolution because the political awareness that Nicaraguans have acquired over the past 9 years is superior to the crisis that the group of 14 [opposition political parties] and the Permanent Workers Committee want to provoke." According to the report, Tirado added that the "Melton plan" seeks to provoke strikes and labor conflicts at factories, "but we will counter this with all available means."

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish on 10 July publishes a 575-word report on pages 1 and 8 on statements by military intelligence chief Major Ricardo Wheelock. According to the report, Wheelock charged the U.S. Embassy with making up a story about the presence of Soviet submarines off the coast of Corinto, "which is absolutely impossible since Corinto port cannot accomodate Soviet submarines." Wheelock added: "However, U.S. warships have been in Nicaraguan waters for years," and he mentioned "the presence of a U.S. frigate, as well as an ARL-24 Sphinx spy ship equippped with electronic equipment," which the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA "has never mentioned." On the front page of the same edition, EL NUEVO DIARIO publishes a cartoon of U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton mistaking a floating log for a submarine.

On 11 July BARRICADA publishes a 400-word article on pages 1 and 5 that cites statements made by President Daniel Ortega on Sunday night at the home of one of the victims of the Rio Blanco "ambush." Regarding the "ambush," Ortega said: "The U.S. Government has broken the cease-fire. The Reagan plan is underway." Referring to the Nandaime incident, Ortega said: "We are willing to take harsh measures in view of these anger-provoking actions."

An editorial on the same two pages of BARRICADA entitled "The Fruits of the Melton Plan" blames both the Rio Blanco and Nandaime incidents on the "Melton plan." The plan, the editorial states, has certainly met the goals of Ambassador Melton and his aides, who want "to create an atmosphere of domestic unrest that will help save Washington's warmongering policy." The editorial states that the most serious of the weekend incidents was "the killing of three innocent Nicaraguan women in the area of Rio Blanco and of Major Francisco Javier Hidalgo in Region Five, all of whom were victims of ambushes by mercenary forces."

LA PRENSA Comments

PA1307122688 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jul 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Nandaime: Evidence of Totalitarianism and People's Heroism"]

[Text] The police brutally attacked a peaceful, civic, and pluralist demonstration of the Democratic Coordinating Board. This demonstration, which had been authorized by the police, was broken up with tear-gas bombs and savage blows from rifle butts, thus marking the return to the blackest days of the Somozist repression.

The people have started to call the police and EPS members "guards," not in obedience to another authority, or as a destabilizing slogan, or because they do not have any other adjective to use, but because these soldiers' actions against the people fit the standards established by the infamous National Guard.

Yesterday dozens of reporters went to Nandaime to check the degree of political development of our people, including the opposition and the government. The authorities' initial attempts to avoid giving permission and the Board's persistence in trying to secure it seemed to indicate that something would come out of it. We also wanted to see the extent to which the Board would be able to rally its followers to attend this event, despite the many hardships we are all suffering.

The demonstration proved surprising. Less than 15,000 people, in perfect discipline and flying their party flags, marched behind their leaders along the designated route while singing slogans and cheering their parties. All this was faithfully recorded by the television and still-picture cameras of local and foreign correspondents.

The cheers and refrains from the crowd were what one would expect from a political demonstration of this kind: "What do the people want? Let the FSLN go! They will surely go! Government of salvation for a single nation!" Such slogans undoubtedly respond to the desires of a majority of this hungry people.

About 100 policemen wearing black berets suddenly charged the demonstrators. Tear gas bombs were thrown at them, and they were savagely attacked. The demonstrators ran desperately for cover. Even foreign correspondents were beaten.

The demonstration, whose peaceful outcome could have made the government proud, became a shameful event because of the police brutality.

It must be said that no mobs participated in the attack, as had been predicted. Perhaps the size of the demonstration discouraged the "violent ones," who only attack when they are in an advantageous position and sure of their victory.

No. This time it was the authorities, the ones in charge of maintaining order, who sowed disorder and terror by attacking the people.

These conclusions can be drawn from yesterday's events at Nandaime: A police force, which is at the same time "the party," can be impartial when the people shout: "We want the FSLN to go!" The police regarded this as a personal offense since the police are the FSLN.

This attack took place because the FSLN can no longer permit the peaceful demonstration of a people who shout against the government, which is the FSLN.

The people responded courageously, but they were at a disadvantage in view of the brutality of the police.

Yesterday's demonstration made clear that the democratization of the Sandinist regime, which includes tolerance of dissidents, is still far from a reality.

Arce Comments on 'Melton Plan,' Opposition

PA0807201388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1400 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission, during a meeting of the National Association of Nicaragua Teachers held at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] ...in Honduras we are seeing that the Army's high command is involved in the modern scourge known as drug trafficking. We are also seeing that, without any shame, they have begun to demote and transfer any officer who has dared to speak up against this and who has asked for an investigation into the high command's involvement in drug trafficking. They have asked that any officer who to help the counterrevolution has become involved in drug trafficiking be punished.

The U.S. strategists do not care whether or not Costa Rican Government officials and diplomats are involved with drug traffickers. They do not care if their strategic plan in El Salvador, implemented through the Christian

Democrats—now divided and politically defeated by the fascist forces represented by ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]—has failed. The U.S. strategists do not worry about the crisis they created in Panama in their attempt to impose a pro-U.S. government in that country. They do not care if the Panamanian working class suffers because of their economic aggression. They do not care if this aggression is affecting Latin America. As a result of these U.S. pressures, the Contadora Group and the Group of Eight—two groups working for peace and self-determination in Latin America—are being weakened. According to the U.S. strategists, the problem of regional peace and stability can be resolved if the Nicaraguan revolutionary government is overthrown.

And how do they plan to do this? By ending the negotiating process, by abolishing the peace agreements, and by suggesting that a national salvation government is needed. A national salvation government can only be possible if the FSLN leaves power and is replaced by the Nicaraguan opposition. According to the spokesmen for the opposition, Colonel Enrique Bermudez is the top representative of that organization. In order to achieve their goal, they are trying to create chaos within the country. They think they will be able to manipulate the economic and material problems of our people by encouraging strikes, demonstrations, and marches—which they claim are against hunger and misery and which are scheduled for 17 July—so they can call on the international community to mediate between the unpopular Sandinist government and the dissatisfied people who are on the verge of an insurrection.

That is their plan. They are trying to paint a picture of people against government. They want to show that the workers, peasants, teachers, and producers are all against the revolutionary government. Now LA PRENSA, the U.S. Embassy and counterrevolution's newspaper, has dared to say that if the revolutionary government is not removed in a peaceful manner, then other means will have to be used. They are not trying to get the masses to go against their own government. No, they are trying to portray an image of rejection of the revolution to bring about international mediation. They are even thinking of involving the Costa Rican president in this. They are planning to visit President Oscar Arias next week to encourage him to appoint a group to come here and mediate between the government and the people, who supposedly can no longer tolerate this government. This group would try to convince the Sandinists to relinquish power, and then the national salvation government would emerge. This national salvation government will most probably be headed by Bermudez, Churruco [Enrique] Bolanos, and Violeta Chamorro, their three most prominent personalities. Perhaps even the church would be involved in this.

When we hear the lackeys of imperialism—those who are receiving money from the U.S. Embassy—promote these actions within the country, we know exactly what they want. They are constantly scheduling demonstrations. In Nandaime on Sunday, they are going to hold another so-called expression of force. Only four or five people will show up, and for protection they will be accompanied by some U.S. congressmen, who will arrive in the country on Saturday. Twelve U.S. congressmen will head the demonstration so that the fearful black berets will not harm them.

In these alleged troubled waters, in this alleged chaos in which the people will turn against the government and everyone will protest, there must be mediation. They have used 1978 as an example of this mediation. In 1978 the Somozist dictatorship had been checked by the FSLN insurrection, and the imperialists tried to save Somoza with the mediation of the OAS and the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr (Boler).

The opposition claims that they must do the same and follow the Melton plan. What does this plan, which was probably not even drafted by Melton, call for? Melton is one of Elliott Abrams' boys. He is with the CIA task force that has been working for years to undermine our revolution. Their inefficiency will probably get them fired, and they will not be able to finish off our revolution. The plan is being coordinated by Mr Melton, a man who was sent by Abrams to do this job. Melton and his cadres are visiting the headquarters of all the political parties, rightist and pseudoleftist unions, and some church offices where they meet secretly. They organize the day's work at LA PRENSA, and Melton even writes his own editorials in his poor Spanish. They are even working with the teachers. They have carried out several activities at schools in Masaya and Managua. They are taking advantage of the objective and fair demands being made by the teachers. Despite the objectivity and fairness of these demands, the revolution cannot always meet them.

There are some teachers who believe that this work must be done. These teachers, who participate actively within the rightist parties and who do not have the money problems other teachers have since their parties pay them with dollars—money sent by the U.S. Embassy—are the ones who have, at times, mislead certain groups of teachers.

There are teachers who are not aware of this great plan and who feel that perhaps if they strike, the government will give in. In the past, one or two teachers said they would get even with the revolution by encouraging their students to vote for the rightist sectors. They wanted the revolution to suffer because it was not resolving the teachers' problems. Well, we did not suffer much since the revolution won the elections, and the two candidates who won, won with the support of the Sandinist youths. We can defeat our political adversaries even if we were to divide and run on two different tickets. Then our youths would be able to choose whether they wanted a male or female candidate.

But the real strength of the revolution, our real strength among the teacher's organizations, must not be an excuse for us to cross our arms and lower our guard, especially not when the imperialist is moving with full force, when in a desperate action it sends its secretary of state, George Shultz, to distribute millions of dollars in Central America—an early Christmas: $125 million for El Salvador; $75 million for Guatemala; $100 million for Costa Rica; and some $50 million over there [not further specified]. This is surely not for free.

We cannot cross our arms and lower our guard when we see the CIA cadres at the U.S. Embassy traveling around the country and meeting with the people, trying to create an appearance of unrest that would allow them to implement their plans. They would like to see everyone pressuring the Nicaraguan Government. The U.S. Government's agents mingle with the people trying to create unrest. They are using the objective problems to achieve their goal. [passage omitted]

Vice President Ramirez on Peace Efforts

AU0807115788 Vienna NEUE AZ in German 8 Jul 88 p 5

[Excerpt] "For me it is recognition of the humanist trait of the revolution in Nicaragua," Sergio Ramirez Mercadeo, vice president of the Central American country, said. Today, Friday, Ramirez will receive the Bruno Kreisky Foundation Award for Services to Human Rights.

"It is recognition of the respect and the demand for human rights. That is, human rights in any respect: of the individual, the rights of the poor, the minorities. I do not accept this award as a personal distinction but as a distinction for my country and our revolution," the Nicaraguan politician and writer stressed.

Vice President Ramirez deplored the U.S. boycott of all Central American peace efforts. "The Sandinist government was promised that the United States will start a dialogue with us, as soon as we negotiate with the contras," Ramirez said. Apparently, the United States also is not taking note of the peace agreement signed by the presidents of the Central American countries, Vice President Ramirez stressed. [passage omitted]

No Evidence Against Bush

AU1107192988 Vienna KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 9 Jul 88 p 4

[Text] The Republican presidential candidate, U.S. Vice President George Bush, who was the target of harsh controversies about his alleged illegal involvement in Nicaragua, can heave a sigh of relief. In an interview with KRONEN-ZEITUNG, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez stated that his government possesses neither evidence nor documents that would prove Bush's involvement in such activities.

In the United States fears had surfaced that Nicaragua could "decide" the U.S. elections if it produces evidence about Bush's knowledge of such activities. Ramirez on this issue: "We know that there is talk of direct involvement of advisors of the vice president in a 'contra' affair and that this will become a election topic in the United States. We ourselves, however, have neither evidence nor documents to prove this."

Regarding the current deadlock in the peace negotiations with the contras, Ramirez affirms that they are being taken seriously by the Sandinist Government. "We have already fulfilled several points, such as the release of Contras and the establishment of contacts with other opposition parties. We want to achieve democratization and are ready to conduct negotiations on how former contra members can be integrated in this process. In this spirit we think that we, the Nicaraguan Government, have already made greater concessions than the contra representatives during the negotiations."

In conclusion Vice President Ramirez states that the Sandinists and Reagan had assumed power at the same time. The Sandinists have survived, and Reagan is leaving. However, the war has ruined Nicaragua's economy, he points out.

Blames U.S. for Tension

PA1307032088 Managua International Service in Spanish 0105 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] The United States will be completely responsible for increased tension in Nicaragua, Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercardo said in Brussels today.

In a news conference, the Nicaraguan vice president said that the revolutionary government has made the utmost efforts to maintain talks on a cease-fire with the Somozist mercenaries. He stated that the contras have not complied with the Sapoa agreements, even though the Nicaraguan Government has offered amnesty to thousands of prisoners, has resumed the dialogue with [words indistinct].

CPDH Leader: Rights Violations Increasing

PA1307042988 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Jul 88 p 3

[Text] Lino Hernandez Trigueros, executive secretary of the Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission, CPDH, has admitted that human rights violation reports have increased in the past 3 months despite the cease-fire.

He stated that 260 cases were reported in April but that 140 reports per month was the average. "One of the most important cases being studied now is the one involving Efren Mondragon, who was taken from his home by state security officials," he said.

Hernandez added that the commission has received many reports of people who experienced problems with security forces and were subsequently mysteriously ambushed and killed.

The CPDH official stated that the organization had already sent the government a report on the former guardsmen who are still in prison, although their release was approved in August 1987.

"We know that the general approval for their release states that almost all the prisoners must be released, with the exception of about 20 who are to be granted another, more fair trial," he added.

The CPDH representative also said that amnesty must be granted and the organization's recommendations implemented even if the cease-fire talks fail.

"It is not a matter of defending the National Guard as an institution, but of individual guardsmen who have already spent 9 years in prison," he said.

Briefs

Agreement With Bulgaria

Nicaragua and Bulgaria have agreed to extend their scientific, technical, business, and economic relations. This decision was made at the end of the fifth session of the joint cooperation commission in Managua. The agreement, signed by Nicaraguan Foreign Cooperation Minister Henry Ruiz and Bulgarian Culture, Science, and Education Minister Georgi Yordanov, specifies that the two countries will promote a broad program of cooperation in the fields of biology, metallurgy, and communications. [Summary] [*PA0807124088 Managua International Service in English 0205 GMT 6 Jul 88*]

Panama

Delvalle Suffers 'Massive' Heart Attack

PA1207224688 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Jul 88 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed article: "Delvalle Suffers Deadly Heart Attack; Gringos Urgently Transfer Him to Miami"]

[Text] Today this newspaper's reporters learned that Eric Arturo Delvalle suffered a massive heart attack yesterday and has been taken to an unknown location.

Delvalle suffered the heart attack on the military base where he has been kept a virtual prisoner of the U.S. Government, and he was urgently taken to an unknown location outside Panama.

The reports we have gathered indicate that after the heart attack, Delvalle was taken out of the base, which was his prison, and carried on a stretcher aboard an airplane equipped with sophisticated medical equipment.

An observer near the scene said that Delvalle looked extremely pale. He was accompanied only by Ambassador Arthur Davis.

It is presumed that Delvalle was taken to a cardiology hospital in Miami.

It was also learned that someone close to Delvalle said that the U.S. Government will be responsible for anything that happens to Delvalle, because it held prisoner a person with a heart ailment who at any moment could suffer another heart attack.

New PRD President Duque Takes Office

PA1007165788 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Speech by Carlos Duque upon assuming the Presidency of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Excerpts] Members and outgoing members of the CEN [National Executive Committee], special guests, members of the Party Directorate, fellow party members, ladies and gentlemen:

I will open my speech with a quote from [General Omar] Torrijos' famous doctrinal book "The Line." Quote: The party's formation was approved with the intention of making it the government's leading support base. The second base should be an organized group representing the country's entire political, ideological, and topographic diversity and should be in charge of making the laws that facilitate the continuation of the process. The third and final base should be the Armed Forces, which would guarantee tranquillity and peaceful coexistence within the country and would also be in charge of preventing the disruption of this balance to the detriment of some and the benefit of others. Unquote. Gen Omar Torrijos wrote this, and it contains our glorious party's philosophy.

Fellow party members, this is a historic day and we should all be fully aware of its deepest meaning. The Democratic Revolutionary Party is fully resuming operations in an atmosphere of unity. It is giving the country the most vital instrument of its transformation and development, the result of more than 200,000 PRD members' analysis, study, and reflection. On 9 July 1988, the nation will record in its political history the beginning of an irreversible process that will establish the foundation of the party's greatness. This foundation is based upon democracy, the achievement of full social justice, the people's real participation in the production of the nation's wealth, and in the future of a fatherland that refuses to be the 51st star of a nation that has forgotten the ties of friendship we share.

I must pay tribute today to the CEN headed by Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, an old friend who will be very close to me in the Presidency, because as a friend I have special

respect for him and can appreciate his experience. Members of the CEN such as my old and dear friend Alfredo Macharaviaya, Carlos Ozores, Ramiro Vazquez, and Hirisnel Sucre faced difficult times as a result of the campaign to politically destabilize the country.

Upon assuming the PRD Presidency, I solemnly promise to continue the struggle against dependence and backwardness, and to accomplish the huge task of rebuilding the party. [passage omitted]

On the basis of the experience I have gained, I proclaim here today: first, respect for all the party's structures and its functioning in accordance with the statutes; [applause] second, no more expanded CEN meetings; [applause, shouts] no more commissions that impose overbearing policies; [applause] obligatory National Directorate meetings every 4 months; [applause] no more hand-picked leaders; [applause, shouts] the hand-picked government appointment system is over; [applause, shouts] and respect for the rank and file's desire to make way for the party's true leadership. [applause, shouts]

You can count on this. [applause] Were this not so, I would not be here right now, nor would I have made this promise to myself. I consider your request that candidates not be imposed upon the party by the party's leaders to be a fair request. [applause] I truly would like the rank and file to choose their best cadres for the upcoming electoral confrontation. [applause]

This CEN promises not to send political coordinators from the capital city to the provinces, [applause] because we respect each sector's leaders, because they have earned the right to lead the party in their respective regions, [applause] and because they know the idiosyncracies of the diverse groups that comprise the Panamanian nation better than anyone else. This CEN will respect the provincial directorates and the rank and file. You will manage the party with your leaders and your rank and file, without coordinators from the capital city. [applause]

Fellow party members, you have demanded that we defend all party members, and from this rostrum we promise to defend the rights of each party member, to work honestly, productively, and loyally in our bureaucratic posts. [applause] We are totally opposed to the persecution of party members, [applause, shouts] and we believe cannibalism and favoritism within the PRD must end. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, UNADE [National Democratic Union] and the PRD must maintain mutual respect. We demand that the so-called political spaces [espacio politico] not be used against our rank and file, [applause] and that our members no longer be forced to resign from the PRD to keep their positions. We are going to defend this position. [applause] [passage omitted]

The Panamanian people's well-known dignity must be stressed, because one of our party's challenges is to lead the people in search of a political solution in which Panama alone will be the true winner.

I must acknowledge the leadership role that the FDP [Panama Defense Forces] has played in the current situation. Today, government and people, PRD and FDP are one, because we have emerged from the very heart of this land—which we will not allow to be destroyed by the invading gringos [applause]—and because we are the heirs of America's liberators who knew how to fight for the undying ideal of justice.

We are aware of our role as interpreters of a deep and ancestral Panamanian demand: A single flag, a single territory. [applause] History will describe these as the years during which an entire nation and its Defense Forces, with commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega, [applause] set out on the path of definite liberation, tested the bases of genuine development, and took away the power of a selfish and colonial oligarchy, recovering authentic sovereignty while under foreign pressure, and initiating the huge task of achieving social justice in Panama. [applause]

The PRD and the FDP walk together, allies for national development, to prevent a true betrayal of the fatherland and also to prevent the continued violations of the rights and demands of a people who in vain have demanded justice of their leaders. The PRD will not allow the inertia, folly, corruption, and insensitivity of bad leaders—added to a docile attitude toward Reagan's government—to surrender our country in a cowardly manner and perpetrate treason, betraying thousands of Panamanians who placed in these leaders their confidence and hope, which they and their U.S. allies attempted to mock.

From this platform today, I call for an irrevocable alliance between all the political forces, a joining in the tasks of the electoral process. This is the best way to overcome our differences. It is with this sense of urgency that today I address the government, and especially members of the PRD leadership. We want fewer speeches and more productivity. [applause] We want fewer words and more creativity. [applause] We want a national development program, and we are capable of suggesting plans and ideas to find a solution to the acute national economic situation.

We have been subjected to a brutal aggression by Reagan's government. We are a country subjected to the dual and paralyzing pressure of underdevelopment and imperialism. No one can deny this incontrovertible fact, and no one should be afraid of this word either. As a businessman, I call on all the sectors participating in national production, which are generating wealth, to intensify their efforts and to get the country out of the current economic crisis that is threatening to destroy our economy. As a party and as citizens, we support all businessmen who want to see the resurgence of a true

national economy. We support and encourage the small and mid-level businessmen who are not part of the oligarchy against which we are struggling. This oligarchy establishes financial networks for its own benefit and to control competition. With its economic power it buys political power that will serve its interests. [applause]

I firmly believe that a dialogue will lead to a Panamanian solution to the political crisis. I am inviting all of the political parties—all of them without exception—to debate and discuss our fatherland's future without the tutelage or orders imparted by the metropolis. I ask the Panamanian opposition to show more of a sense of responsibility and maturity, to stop seeking solutions for Panama's political problems in Washington. The solutions are in Panama, not Washington. [applause] I am inviting all the political forces to join the electoral process. We will maintain our unity with the popular movement and hope to form an alliance with the People's Unity Front, Conato [National Council of Organized Workers], Fenasep [National Federation of Associations of Public Employees], peasant settlements, and all those sectors struggling for an authentic national liberation. [applause] [passage omitted]

Party Leadership Listed

PA1107124388 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Yesterday during a special ceremony at the Atlapa Convention Center, the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, National Special Directorate elected the new members of the party's National Executive Committee [CEN]. The election was based on current party rules.

Distinguished party militant Carlos Duque Jaen was appointed the new CEN president. Carlos Ozores was appointed vice president and Darisnel Espino was appointed secretary general. Pedro Pereira was appointed first secretary and Gustavo Melgar was appointed second secretary. Prominent government officials and active PRD members attended this ceremony, as did PRD militants from all provinces.

The election of the new PRD CEN was done by acclaim. The slate headed by Carlos Duque was introduced by Legislator Camilo Gozaine, who said this new CEN would have to defend the Torrijos-Carter treaties and respect all agreements or negotiations taking place inside the party, which he termed a Torrijist party.

After the new leadership was sworn in, Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, the outgoing CEN president, emphasized that during his presidency the CEN confronted the biggest sedition ever to take place in Panama. This sedition wanted to install a puppet government that would respond to U.S. interests, whose aim is to violate the Torrijos-Carter treaties, Escobar said. [passage omitted]

Esquivel Views Political Situation, Elections

PA0907025288 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Interview with Dr Roderick Esquivel, vice president during the Delvalle Presidency, by unidentified reporters on 8 July; place not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Esquivel] ...and also to demonstrate that I will not be in hiding any longer but will be out on the street.

[Reporter] What will be your next political move?

[Esquivel] I have not planned it yet.

[Reporter] What is your opinion on the government's call for elections?

[Esquivel] We have an expression in Panama that is very short and very descriptive: It would be a fight between a tiger and a tethered goat. However, the goat may be very strong and the tiger toothless. And I believe that the goat, which is all of the Panamanian people, can demonstrate at the polls and in many other ways that we do not agree with this dictatorship.

[Reporter] How much longer do you think the Panamanians can endure a situation such as the current one?

[Esquivel] I cannot say. We have already endured a lot. The country is destroyed, and the economy is in shambles. There are many countries that are taking what Panama created: all of the service industries. We have capital flight and a brain drain. Our best attorneys are going elsewhere to set up office. The banks and the companies are leaving. Panamanians are very good at making money, and they will make it in another country. We are in for a long wait, my friend. This is not something that can be resolved from one day to the next.

[Reporter] Did you mean to say that it is possible the elections can resolve the political situation?

[Esquivel] No, a mere election cannot resolve a political situation. We have to see what the conditions for these elections will be and if they are a mockery. And what is happening here in Panama is that there is no freedom of the press, there is no freedom of expression, journalists are afraid, the newspapers are all controlled, the radio stations are afraid of being closed, and the television stations are afraid to report what they want or what their journalists and staff think. There is hardly any freedom to move about. There is a sense of fear caused by a series of veiled threats. These are not conditions for a real election. But the elections will be an opportunity for the Panamanian people to make their true feelings known.

PDC's Arias Wants U.S. To Continue Measures

PA1107211988 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Ricardo Arias Calderon has reiterated his request for the United States to continue the measures against the Panamanian economy until a democratic agreement fulfilling all the Civic Crusade goals is obtained.

The agreement should lead to the establishment of a government obedient to the United States and willing to revise the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

At the most recent meeting of the Christian Democratic International in Rome, Arias Calderon said the aforementioned agreement must include the removal of General Manuel Antonio Noriega from the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] command, the creation of a new role for the FDP, which must agree with the democratic demands, and the installation of a new government, which will preside over the upcoming elections. In other words, the agreement must fulfill the demands presented by the U.S. Embassy, which led to the birth of the Civic Crusade.

If those demands are fulfilled, the Christian Democratic International will ask the United States to suspend all the measures it adopted that harmed the Panamanian Government. It will also ask the United States and Europe to develop a cooperation plan for Panama's economic reconstruction.

Before leaving for Rome, Arias Calderon said he would ask for the European solidarity that the Panamanian people are demanding through their struggle for the country's democratization.

As we all know, the aforementioned struggle ended in an agreement between the Reagan administration agents, the Panamanian PDC, and the Civic Crusade. They agreed to strangle Panama so the Panamanian people's economic suffocation would force Gen Noriega to leave Panama.

Arias Calderon added: Wherever I go, I will talk about the Panamanian people's struggle, about our sacrifices to attain a political, democratic solution, and about the country's economic reconstruction.

The PDC position was clearly set forth in Rome. It was clearly stated that no country should help Panama now, because any help given to Panama within the current economic situation would prevent the PDC from attaining power and from installing an obedient government that would revise the canal treaties and protect U.S. interests.

Regional PDC Leader Released; Claims Beaten

PA0907043888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0131 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 8 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—A Christian Democratic Party (PDC) source reported that PDC leader Jose Domingo Torres was released today after being detained for 4 days.

Torres, who is the PDC secretary general in Chiriqui Province, which is in the western part of the country bordering with Costa Rica, was detained by authorities on 4 July and charged with participating in a presumed "subversive plot to discredit" the Panama Defense Forces. [passage omitted]

The source said that after his release, Torres went to a health center and had a forensic doctor certify that he, Torres, was beaten while under arrest.

Authorities Expel REUTER Correspondent

PA1207035888 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY0257 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] San Jose, 11 Jul (REUTER)—Today Panama ordered a REUTER correspondent to leave the country, after refusing to issue him press credentials.

Newsman Alister Doyle, who is British, arrived in the Costa Rican capital tonight on a flight from Panama.

Panamanian authorities gave no explanations for their refusal to grant Doyle press credentials.

Doyle, 30, usually works in Honduras. He was to spend 2 weeks in Panama to allow the REUTER correspondent there to go on vacation. [passage omitted]

Government Grants Asylum to Ecuador's Bucaram

PA1207194888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1717 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Panama City, 12 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Panamanian Foreign Ministry confirmed that the government has granted political asylum to former Ecuadoran presidential candidate Abdala Bucaram. Ecuador has issued a warrant for the arrest of Bucaram, who is charged with misappropriation of funds.

Today authorized Foreign Ministry sources told ACAN-EFE that the government has decided to grant political asylum to Bucaram, president of the Ecuadoran Roldosist Party. Bucaram arrived in Panama on 30 June and asked for asylum in this country.

On 7 July a delegation of Ecuadoran politicians, headed by Legislator Marco Proano Maya, met with Panama Defense Forces Commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega. They asked Gen Noriega to grant Bucaram asylum in Panama since he is being "politically persecuted" in Ecuador. [passage omitted]

Noriega Meets African National Congress Group

PA1307043288 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 12 Jul 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by Luis E. Quintero-Barrera on statements by General Manuel Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces (FDP), at the FDP general headquarters in Panama City on 12 July]

[Excerpt] "Panama supports Nelson Mandela's struggle and has made it its own, since it is the struggle of a people attempting to gain their liberation from racism," General Manuel Antonio Noriega said today. The commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces made the statement during a meeting with Dr Neo Nmunzana, delegate representative of the African National Congress to the United Nations, who visited Panama to participate in the "National Campaign for the Liberation of Nelson Mandela," held at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City from 8 to 18 July.

"We are united by a similar cause—the struggle of two peoples to gain their freedom. Our long-standing concern for the liberation struggle of the South African people has existed for many years. General Torrijos was another great Latin American leader who concerned himself with the fate of Nelson Mandela and negotiated for his release from prison, where he has spent more than 25 years," said Gen Noriega to the group of dignitaries who visited him at his office at the general headquarters of the FDP. [passage omitted]

Southern Command General, U.S. Policy Viewed

PA0807205688 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Jul 88

["Today in the World" with Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] And now we will dedicate a few minutes to His Excellency, the major or lieutenant general—I do not know his specific rank—namely General Frederick Woerner, head of the Southern Command. He is 54 years old, holds a degree in Latin American history, and has the privilege—because this is a privilege—of speaking fluent Spanish. Our language of Cervantes has many nuances; it is so poetic that those who can speak it without it being their native tongue are privileged people. Woerner speaks Spanish, but what is important is that he understands those of us who speak Spanish.

Woerner repeats an idea reaffirmed by Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter: Relations between the Southern Command and the Panamanian military are nonexistent. This is an unprecedented situation calling for wisdom, prudence, and patience from the two sides, although I sometimes think that patience comes from only one side.

This is an unprecedented situation, because no world power has ever attacked a friendly country with such mercilessness and cruelty and in violation of the most basic principles of international law as has the United States. All the recent maneuvers within the Panama Canal Commission, which followed economic sanctions, are part of an almost sickening episode: refusing to pay money they owe, rejecting a Panamanian representative, and changing the site of commission meetings. All these are tricks of defeated people.

Woerner talks about political and economic turmoil. We are already tired of listening to this diagnosis: political turmoil and crisis. In fact, I scratched the word crisis from my dictionary. We must courageously point out that this turmoil was unleashed from and by Washington behind Latin America's back and against the Panamanian people. This superficial and sidestepping action of avoiding in-depth discussion of an issue is trite recourse, my dear general with a degree in Latin American history. There is no one quick solution to the crisis despite the State Department's belief that Noriega would soon leave power. It is obvious that there is no such solution, because it would be an imposed solution based on a plan drafted by untalented people who forgot that in this country it is easier to exchange views than to starve us to death. Therefore, there is no short-term solution. A long-term solution will come through elections, and the date already has been scheduled. Panama's future has a date, and that date was established by the Electoral Tribunal.

I believe it is no secret to anyone that I have always rejected the quick solution thesis. This problem cannot be solved through simple or quick means.

Woerner is following Pentagon policy, which is totally different from State Department policy. What policy toward other countries can we expect from a world power whose basic organizations are not coordinated? Such a world power is doomed to making the most catastrophic mistakes. Panama is a case in point.

Woerner adds that Noriega is not a U.S. product, that it did not create or fabricate him. Quite the contrary, he says Noriega is a product or result of Panamanian society. This is a Panamanian phenomenon seen from an Anglo-Saxon viewpoint. The Panamanian people have their own cultural profile, national identity, behavior, and views on life. They do not share the views of Mr Abrams and Mr Charles, who was head of the famous (Btesh) company, which has billions of dollars invested in construction projects around the world. Those people view the world from a different perspective: from a purely mercantile perspective.

Given that the canal is a source of revenue and that they need it to establish more military bases in view of the reactivation of conventional weapons, they resort to any methods for two reasons: first, because they underestimate Noriega and all other Panamanian military men; and, second, because they view us as Indian and Negroid peoples who are incapable of resisting the momentum of their might. Well, we also proved them wrong here.

As for the drug issue, Woerner also leaves open the possibility of rejection by saying: I do not support or refute the drug trafficking charges, and I believe that in this regard I can speak on behalf of all commanders who preceded me.

In sum, the military men who live here in Panama along with the Panamanian people—on this occasion speaking through this general married to a Bolivian woman, a man who speaks our language but does not have the courage to make the views he has expressed here known in Washington—also believe that all this a setup, that this apparatus involving Chabelo Blandon and former convicts lacks all seriousness. In sum, this issue is still being bandied about, but the horizon looks to be clearing up. [passage omitted]

Dignity Battalion Officials on Training

PA0807222888 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1957 GMT 7 Jul 88

[News conference held by Benjamin Colamarco, member of the Patrio Coordinating Committee of the Dignity Battalions, and retired Major Armando Marquinez, member of the Dignity Battalions' Tactical Command, with unidentified reporters at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Colamarco] ...there will be an event tomorrow to deliver rifles to patriotic volunteers who are members of the Dignity Battalions in the Panama City area. This event will be held at the Omar Torrijos Herrera Sports Center in Los Andes No 2, San Miguelito district, at 1000. It will be attended by district and national authorities; Colonel Correa, G-3 of the Panama Defense Forces' [FDP] General Staff; the Dignity Battalions' Patriotic Coordinating Committee; the Tactical Command; and the patriotic volunteers of the battalions I just mentioned. These battalions are the Latin Liberation Battalion of Barraza neighborhood, San Miguel Arcangel Battalion of San Miguelito, the 16 December Torrijist Group of Fort Amador, and the Rosa Elena Landecho Battalion of Tocumen. These battalions make up the Dignity Battalion of the Panama City area.

Beginning next week, all provinces, including the western Panama area, that is Chorrera, will carry out the same activity, the delivery of rifles, but in a gradual manner. We are carrying out an activity that has great historical significance. It is a commitment to defend the fatherland. It is an effort to consolidate a popular structure with the broad participation of Panamanian citizens who are filled with patriotic fervor as a result of the situation we are experiencing because of the U.S. Government aggression—a very unfair aggression.

Our people's response has been to join these dignity battalions to defend the fatherland and to show that we will not yield to pressures or the U.S. Government's self-interest in reversing the achievements made by our people, thanks to the sacrifice of generations and generations of Panamanians.

The days when our people had to defend themselves from U.S. soldiers with stones and sticks—just like on 9 January 1964—are long gone.

We are a peaceful and respectful people. We do not love war. We are a happy people, but we are also a people endowed with a spirit of struggle and sacrifice.

We feel that respect is a two-way street. Just as we respect and admire the U.S. people, we demand that same respect from the U.S. Government. Respect cannot be a one-way street. Respect must be reciprocal. This is what we demand. This is why, in view of this unjust and arrogant U.S. Government aggression, the Panamanian people, putting aside party interests, social classes, and educational backgrounds, have joined the dignity battalions.

Intellectuals, professionals, workers, peasants, students, retired military officers, unemployed people, and housewives have joined and continue to join this patriotic initiative.

We feel that tomorrow's activity at the Omar Torrijos Herrera Sports Center in Los Andes No 2, San Miguelito area, is very significant. It is the people's reaffirmation that they are on the side of our FDP and [Panama's] sovereign interests if the irrational idea to invade Panama militarily prevails.

We are convinced that calm and reason will prevail. We believe that incidents such as the one in the Persian Gulf, where 290 innocent people lost their lives, must not occur again. Let reason prevail.

Our people are prepared to defend the fatherland on the side of the FDP. That is the primary FDP duty. Its role is to defend the fatherland. It is a role that is not disputed. It is the FDP role.

We are preparing Panamanian civilians, who must be organized to become a part of those who defend the fatherland. To defend the fatherland must be beyond personal interests.

We now want to give the floor to retired Major Arturo Marquinez, who is also a member of this Committee of Patriotic Coordination of the Dignity Battalions and the tactical commander of these battalions.

[Marquinez] Good afternoon, on behalf of the reservists, [words indistinct] we raised the flag on Ancon Hill and promised that our flag will never be lowered by foreign hands.

We have organized at the national level. All reservists of the Republic of Panama are members of these battalions. Our plan involves defensive operations and destruction in the event of any intervention by foreign troops on our territory.

We have witnessed these young guys' enthusiasm, and we believe that it is our responsibility, due to our vast experience, to support them. These young guys represent the generation that will probably have to lead this liberationist struggle in our fatherland.

Therefore, on behalf of the reservists, Dr Colamarco, be fully convinced that we will be up front, at any time and under any emergency situation. Thank you.

[Colamarco] We now begin the question and answer period. We ask the national and foreign reporters to identify themselves before they ask their questions.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Colamarco] Beginning on Saturday, the patriots who are members of the Dignity Battalions will begin the second phase of tactical training. The first phase, basic training, was already completed. This means that they will conduct training activities on tactics for squads, platoons, companies, and brigades.

They will be trained on the handling of various firearms. They will have to perfect their skills in that area. They will also receive nationalist training and orientation, which must be stressed at this moment.

This is the phase we will begin on Saturday. We want to note that new patriots joined the battalions at the national level, from Chiriqui to Darien.

Starting on Saturday, these patriots will begin their basic training. Therefore, the group that already completed basic training will go on to the second phase, tactical training. And those new people who joined the Dignity Battalions will begin their basic training on Saturday.

We are talking about a total of approximately 8,000 Panamanian patriots who completed basic training and approximately 2,000-3,000 new individuals who enlisted at the national level. They will begin their training on Saturday or next week.

[Reporter] Dr Colamarco, were the rifles that will be delivered to this group going on to the second phase, tactical training, donated by a friendly country or are they part of the FDP arsenal?

[Colamarco] They are part of the FDP arsenal. They are weapons that will be assigned to these civilian personnel, these patriots who enlisted in the Dignity Battalions. These weapons will be registered in the names of these patriots and will be kept at the armories of FDP companies where training activities are being conducted.

[Gonzalez] I am Domitilo Gonzalez of Onda Popular. What guarantee do these battalion members have that the creation of these battalions is merely a formality or a symbol in view of the political situation the country is experiencing? Or is this part of a profound anti-imperialist policy and patriotic conviction to truly repel a potential aggression? Aside from this, what is the total number of Dignity Battalion members?

[Colamarco] Beginning with the second part of your question, I repeat that there are approximately 8,000 patriots who are members of the Dignity Battalions.

Regarding the first part of your question, the formation of the Patriotic Coordinating Committee of the Dignity Battalions implies that we are carrying out activities to strengthen this structure to make it permanent. Our commitment is not only for now and not only for this situation.

The commitment to defend our fatherland is permanent. The interest of the U.S. Government's most conservative sectors and their strategic goal, a goal they will continue to seek until the year 2000—they may use different tactics to reach this strategic goal, they may change their tactics—is not to comply with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. [passage omitted]

Another strategic goal is to prevent Panama from participating in international forums with its independent, nonaligned, nationalist, Third World, Latin Americanist, and Bolivarian stand. [passage omitted]

No one wants war here. No one wants to use weapons here. We are a peaceful nation. We have other interests. We have a different character. We have a different way of carrying out our national activities. Unfortunately, we have had to prepare ourselves to defend the fatherland. Therefore, our efforts must be permanent efforts.

[Martinez] I am Mario Martinez of CRITICA. Dr Colamarco, I arrived somewhat late and perhaps you have already answered my question. I just heard that during the first stage, each battalion member will get one rifle. Are we talking about 8,000 rifles, then?

[Colamarco] No, sir. We will be delivering rifles to four battalions tomorrow. These battalions are the San Miguel Arcangel, the Latin Liberation, the 16 December Torrijist Group, and the Rosa Elena Landecho. We are talking about 600 units in the capital. However, on Monday we will begin delivering rifles to all other Dignity Battalions at the national level until we deliver rifles to the 8,000 patriots who are Dignity Battalion members. We estimate that in 10 days we will have registered and assigned rifles to the 8,000 dignity battalion members.

[Martinez] What is the make of these rifles?

[Colamarco] [Laughs] (?I will not tell you); they are rifles that shoot right. [laughs]

[Hernandez] I am Luis Hernandez of INTER-PRESS SERVICE. From your initial explanation, I get the idea or at least I understand that the Patriotic Coordination Committee is an organization with a certain degree of autonomy. If

these battalions have to go into action, how do you foresee coordination with the FDP—because this would involve the country's defense? A second question is, Maj Marquinez said that they joined the battalions, so has it been predetermined that retired officers will comprise the battalion cadres or will volunteers also be picked for leadership and intermediate tasks within the battalions?

[Marquinez] The truth is that each province has its own characteristics. Therefore, retired officers direct these operations according to the needs of the various provinces. Here in Panama, we have the problem you all know about with the enclaves. Perhaps in Chiriqui the problem is at the border. Other types of operations would be required in that terrain. The retired officers will be brigade tactical leaders. For all practical purposes, we will be coordinators and advisers. The battalions will have their own leaders. They will have their own organization, which, of course, they will coordinate with the tactical group, which is us.

[Colamarco] To further explain this, we want to add that the battalions will determine their own chain of command. In other words, the squad leaders will be chosen by squad members, platoon leaders will be chosen by platoon members, and company leaders will be chosen by company members.

[Reporter] Will there be any screening mechanism for Dignity Battalion members or is it open registration? Is any screening being done internally?

[Colamarco] When the initiative was taken and patriots voluntarily went to the FDP, they felt motivated because of the aggression our country was experiencing. This registration is voluntary. Anyone can register who feels that he has a commitment to the fatherland, who believes that it is truly in danger and that we must dissuade those who want to attack us from doing so—because we are a people who are willing to sacrifice so that other generations can live in peace. We cannot set limits on the people's participation in the Dignity Battalions. Anyone who feels committed and patriotic can go to the FDP training installations and fill out the pertinent basic data document, which includes personal information, blood type, etc. There is no limitation; any patriot can join the Dignity Battalions.

[Reporter] Dr Colamarco, you said that the rifles will be kept at armories in the various battalions. What guarantee do civilians have that these rifles will only be used for defensive actions?

[Colamarco] The Dignity Battalions were solely formed to face an aggression by a foreign power. That is the purpose of the Dignity Battalions. All members share that commitment. In the event of foreign aggression, the rifles will be used to reject that foreign aggression. They will never be used for internal activities.

The Dignity Battalions can be used in cases of natural disasters to help civil defense, because we will be structured, disciplined, and organized, which will help us better serve the civil defense. Panama is a bit behind in this area. Panama is behind in the organization of civil defense when fires and natural disasters occur. However, if there is a foreign military invasion, the rifles will be used by these patriots in defense of the fatherland.

[Reporter] Regarding the Tactical Command, will it obey the FDP command or the Presidency of the Republic?

[Colamarco] The Tactical Command is part of the Dignity Battalion's Patriotic Coordinating Committee. It is a single structure. This committee makes the decisions as to operations and activities to be carried out by the Dignity Battalions. We are all at the service of the fatherland. [passage omitted]

M-16 Rifles Handed Out

PA1007023988 [Editorial Report] Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish at 1515 GMT on 8 July begins live coverage of a ceremony at the Omar Torrijos Sports Complex in the Los Andes No 2 neighborhood, San Miguelito district, in Panama City, during which the "Dignity Battalions Patriotic Coordinating Committee," and the "Latin American Liberation," "Saint Michael the Archangel," "16 September Torrijist Commando," and "Rosa Elena Landecho" dignity battalions receive their rifles.

The announcer states that 21 M-16 rifles will be given to the Coordinating Committee members and battalion commanders as a token of the weapons that will be issued to the battalion members who have completed the first phase of their training.

The ceremony begins when the master of ceremonies greets government officials, Panama Defense Forces [FDP] officers, municipal authorities, and others attending the ceremony.

Lieutenant Colonel Moises Correa (G-3), Lieutenant Colonel Gerardo Garcia, and Major Armando Palacios Gondola present the rifles to the Coordinating Committee members and the battalion delegates. Then a group carrying the battalion flags approaches the main platform and is sworn in by Lt Col Correa.

Brigade member Jose Antonio Vargas delivers a 5-minute speech on behalf of all the battalion members, emphasizing their pledge to defend the homeland from the "arrogant U.S. Government's intervention" and urging his fellow citizens to join the dignity battalions.

Then Dr Benjamin Colamarco, a member of the Coordinating Committee, delivers a speech in which he recalls how U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato announced that the U.S. Government "would cut Panama's throat," and he emphasizes that the United States' dirty campaign against Panama and General Manuel Antonio

Noriega "to defeat the Panamanian people and the patriotic and nationalistic FDP" has failed. Dr Colamarco says the National Guard, which later became the FDP, is no longer an instrument of the Panamanian oligarchy. He adds that the FDP is in the forefront of the people's defense against foreign aggression. Colamarco says "U.S. imperialism's claws had been sunk in the canal area," but imperialism "is being overwhelmingly beaten by our patriotism and courage." He warns that the United States resembles a wounded beast that is still capable of lashing out, so the people must prepare to defend the homeland.

Lt Col Correa delivers a speech on behalf of Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, stating that the country is proud of all those who comprise the dignity battalions. He says they represent a country which, although small in population, has lots of dignity; and its people will defend their homeland against colonialists, neocolonialists, traitors, and turncoats who advocate U.S. intervention. He recalls the Panamanians traitors who demanded U.S. intervention in 1925, and he says the descendants of those traitors demanded another U.S. intervention in 1988, but they were defeated by the Panamanian people's dignity, courage, and patriotism. He concludes his speech by stating that Gen Noriega and the Panamanian people "will continue to write—with your actions—glorious and immortal pages" in the country's history.

The flag-carrying group and the battalion members begin a parade while the master of ceremonies calls out the battalions' names and describes their historical background, where they have trained, and the type of training they have received, including "training on close-order, platoon, and squad tactics; and basic training in military radio communications, camouflage, and first aid."

After the parade concludes the announcer interviews Mrs Balbina de Perignan, mayor of San Miguelito, and she talks about the ceremony, the battalions' training, and historical importance of the event. Mrs Perignan also talks about the United States' economic aggression against Panama and fact that many people living in her district have lost their jobs. She issues an appeal to the private sector, urging them to keep in mind that each man they fire is a head of household who must support a family.

Rognoni on Economic Figures, Taiwan Investment

PA0907042888 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Panamanian Commerce and Industries Minister Rognoni has said that the government is trying, although not fully, to boost the economy. He noted that the economic figures for the the 1st half of the year are not encouraging, although the past few months have been better than previous ones. He added that the Panamanian and Taiwan Governments are studying the creation of an industrial zone in a project that will cost millions of dollars and generate thousands of jobs.

[Begin recording] [Rognoni] The Taiwan Government has tried several free industrial zones in other countries. The Taiwanese are studying building one in Latin America. The countries originally considered were the Dominican Republic, Panama, and Costa Rica. The Dominican Republic was ruled out. A Taiwan technical mission is arriving today from Costa Rica. Panama and Costa Rica are under consideration for the final decision.

[Reporter] Will that zone work, considering the current political situation in the country?

[Rognoni] Of course. We think that the critical part of the current political situation has passed. Panama has a commitment to the May 1989 elections. All Panamanians, businessmen, and politicians want a return to normalcy and an economic recovery. Foreign investors, especially Asian investors, are thinking of long-term plans. They are not bothered by temporary situations that may come up at a particular time in a country. We think Panama offers very important advantages over Costa Rica for the establishment of an industrial zone such as this. We think this project would be very encouraging for the country's economic future.

[Reporter] What sort of products will be exported?

[Rognoni] The investors are talking about a 5-year period to set up approximately 252 industries. They are talking about an investment of over $500 million that will generate over 50,000 jobs in a 5-year period. This is part of the Asians' campaign to penetrate the Western market by setting up industries in these areas. By setting up an industrial center in Panama, they will be able to supply the Latin American and U.S. markets and, probably, the Caribbean and some European markets. [end recording]

Business Survey on Economic Prospects, Jobs

PA0807193288 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 7 Jul 88 pp A-1, A-2

[Article by Editor-in-Chief Juan Carlos Duque M.]

[Text] The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture anticipates there will be changes in the employment level, as well as in the wholesale business and banking and insurance sectors, if normal conditions are restored in the country. However, if current conditions continue, there will be an additional reduction in the number of employees. By the end of July, this will reportedly amount to an additional 25-percent drop from the April 1988 reduction level.

Yesterday, during a meeting among its members, the Chamber of Commerce disclosed figures from a survey of 188 enterprises. The survey was taken in May, and it presents the true situation of the enterprises during the months of February, March, and April. It also make projections for the months of May, June, and July under two different scenarios: present conditions and the restoration of normal conditions.

The survey on the "evaluation of economic activity for member-enterprises of the Chamber" concludes that under present conditions, it is estimated there will be a drop in sales and revenue for the next 3 months.

The study touches on aspects of sales and income, employment, and additional operating time. It also emphasizes that the employment reduction percentages have increased "month by month, especially in March and April."

Overall, in April 1988 the companies reported 32 percent fewer employees than they had for the same month in the previous year. Industrial enterprises reported a fivefold decrease in employees compared to the commercial sector's numbers in February.

"If present conditions continue, the companies estimate that as a whole they will proceed in May, June, and July to decrease the number of employees by an additional 25 percent based on April 1988 figures. The final reduction would leave a level that is equivalent to 51 percent of the April 1987 work force. This indicates that for July the companies will complete the process of adjustment in personnel to adapt to the new level of economic activity in the country," said the report.

The purpose of the survey was to obtain direct knowledge of the repercussions of the crisis that has gripped Panama since June last year and which was aggravated by the events in February and March 1988.

If the crisis is resolved, said the survey, retail commerce expects a very positive reaction in employment.

For example, in 3 months it would rehire for one-third of the vacancies created by the end of April 1988.

Assuming the crisis will be resolved, agricultural groups, banks, and insurance companies are maintaining the employment reduction level for May, June, and July; however, in the livestock sector the rate of unemployment is decreasing month by month.

"Banks and insurance companies will maintain the April percentage of decrease for the next 3 months. That percentage, which is approximately 45 percent, does not vary under either of the two assumptions considered," said the survey.

The companies surveyed made important adjustments in the number of employees during February, March, and April 1988.

The survey disclosed that under present conditions, only 15 percent of all the enterprises participating in the survey will be able to maintain operations indefinitely. "The majority (60 percent) feel they will be able to maintain operations for an additional 3 to 6 months."

The groups most affected by the drop in revenue during the months of March and April were: clothing, construction, distribution, the communications media, electronics, and furniture. Also, according to the survey, there were great variations in the sales and revenue figures for May, June, and July 1988, "depending on the area."

Under present conditions, over 60 percent of the surveyed enterprises said that the economic contraction will be 50-percent greater in May, June, and July of this year. The survey also disclosed that the overall reduction in enterprise activity is 57 percent.

The enterprises of those groups that experienced economic contractions in their sales during the months of March and April feel that this trend will continue for the months of May, June, and July, emphasizing that "even if the crisis is resolved and there is a return to normal conditions," there will still be a contraction in sales during this period.

"However, the percent of enterprises making such an estimate drops to 63 if normal conditions are restored. A total of 36.4 percent of the enterprises expect their sales to increase," the survey emphasized.

The groups forecasting increases in sales and revenue if normal conditions return are: food and electronics, which estimate significant increases; and tourism, distribution, medicines, and chemical products, which estimate increases of more than 25 percent.

Other interesting information disclosed by the survey:

In April 1988, there were 43 percent fewer employees in the enterprises than in April 1987.

The lowest percentage of employee reduction as of April 1988 has been in the banking and insurance sectors.

If the crisis is overcome, the enterprises estimate in general terms that there will still be a negative change in the number of employees in May, but it will be very small (minus 3.8 percent). In the two subsequent months, the trend would be reversed and employment would increase by 3.7 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively, as compared to April 1988. The final effect of the reduction would be equivalent to 15 percent of the number of employees in April 1987.

Briefs

Free Zone Imports Decrease

Pablo Thalassinos, general manager of the Colon Free Zone, has said imports to the free zone have decreased by $20 to $30 million compared to the same period of last year, while exports in the last few months have not changed in comparison with the same period of last year. [Summary] [*PA0907122488 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 Jul 88 p 16*]

Argentina

Soviet Company To Dredge Bahia Blanca Port

PY1207142088 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The executive branch has authorized direct contracting and has approved all the terms of an agreement signed between the Public Works and Services Ministry and the Soviet enterprise Tekhnostroyeksport to dredge and do other work in Bahia Blanca's port area.

The decree calls this project advantageous, because the work contracted is included within the framework of an agreement on the supply of Soviet-made machinery and equipment to Argentina. That agreement, signed on 13 February 1974, will provide long-term, low-cost financing for the port project.

The decree states that in the short-term, the contracted work will improve the competitiveness of our grain exports.

The decree also establishes that the goods, equipment, works, and services involved in dredging Bahia Blanca's port will be exempted by Argentina from taxes and other fiscal revenues, as provided for under the current agreements.

Cordoba Signs Trade Agreement With Shanghai

PY1207143288 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0408 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Cordoba, 12 Jul (TELAM)—The Cordoba Foreign Trade Department and the PRC Council for International Trade Development, Shanghai branch, have signed a cooperation agreement to promote trade between Argentina and the PRC.

The agreement was signed during the reception given by the PRC delegation to FICO 88 [not further identified] for members of the Cordoba Trade Department, headed by Victor Mucaria.

The agreement provides for exchange of information, promotion of commercial delegations, and mutual assistance in all aspects of trade relations.

Briefs

Agreement With Benin

Buenos Aires, 8 Jul (TELAM)—Today Beninese Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Guy Hazoume and Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo signed an agreement to implement a scientific, technical, and cultural bilateral exchange program. The agreement will allow the two countries to establish a joint commission that will hold meetings at the request of either party. The two ministers also signed a joint communique detailing the activities carried out in Argentina by Hazoume during his visit. [Excerpts] [*PY1207010788 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1530 GMT 8 Jul 88*]

Bolivia

Defense Minister Seeks Increased Budget

PY1207032088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0112 GMT 17 Jul 88

[Text] La Paz, 11 Jul (EFE)—Bolivian Defense Minister Alfonso Revollo has stated that the number of Bolivian Armed Forces' troops will increase in the future.

Revollo said that this increase will be prompted by "our needs and demands," thus rejecting objections raised by the opposition regarding the "high military budget."

Revollo also announced that he will meet Planning and Coordination Minister Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada in the next few days to discuss the fund that the government has earmarked for the Armed Forces in the 1988 budget. These funds amount to approximately $98 million.

Revollo stated that "this amount is not enough" and that the Armed Forces need at least $118 million to be able to fulfill their regular duties.

He added that this year's military budget was drastically reduced and this fact is a source of concern for the high-ranking Armed Forces members.

Revollo stated that taking into account that in the past few years, the three branches of the Armed Forces have complied with the Constitution and have supported President Victor Paz Estenssoro's economic policies, they deserve a better financial deal.

According to unofficial reports, the three branches of the Bolivian Armed Forces currently have 35,000 troops.

Soviet Experts To Aid in Plant Construction

PY1307032388 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Jul 88

[Text] Soviet experts have begun work on a feasibility project for the construction of a plant with the (Zurbala) company in the northern part of La Paz Department.

Based on the experts' report, the possibilities of a joint-venture in the region by Bolivia and the USSR will be analyzed, Soviet Embassy Counselor Igor Prokofiev has said.

Prokofiev said the Soviet experts who worked on the preparation of the project have already returned to the USSR.

The experts' work consisted of developing several hydroelectric, agricultural, cattle raising, and economic projects. They also prepared plans for cooperation with Bolivian neighbors.

These regions are interested in electrical projects in order to create another source of income for the Bolivian Government.

Igor Prokofiev added that the time frame in which the projects will be carried out is unclear. Agreements between Bolivia and the USSR will have to be signed before their implementation.

Brazil

Radio Nacional FM Sold to Private Sector

PY1307001188 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Today RADIOBRAS [Brasilian Radiobroadcasting Company] auctioned Radio Nacional FM of Rio de Janeiro. This is the first step in a RADIOBRAS project to sell 18 radio and television stations this month.

The auction took place at RADIOBRAS headquarters in Brasilia. Paulo Cesar Ferreira, radio owner and businessman, placed the highest bid. Ferreira owns four other radio stations in Rio de Janeiro. Seven other companies participated in the auction, including Radio Globo, Radio Golden Cross, and Ultima Hora.

The Radio Nacional FM of Rio was sold for 95,000 OTN [National Treasury Bonds], or nearly 152,000,000 cruzados. [passage omitted]

University To Join Marijuana Control Program

PY1307013388 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 Jul 88 p 12

[Text] Brasilia—The University of Sao Paulo (USP) will make a chart based on an air survey of the so-called "marijuana triangle," formed by the cities of Floresta, Belem de Sao Francisco, and Cabrobo, in Pernambuco's hinderlands. According to police chief Romeu Tuma, director general of the Federal Police Department (DPF), the police will use the USP chart to raid these prosperous regional plantations and areas of drug trades. O GLOBO published an article on this issue on Sunday, 10 July.

The large marijuana plantations, which not even the Federal Police can eliminate, has won for Pernambuco State the title of largest marijuana producer in the world, according to DEA statistics. Romeu Tuma said that the new and modern systems—like the survey USP scientists will elaborate from satellite photographs—could be the only way to combat traffickers who operate with impunity in Pernambuco. Tuma is also concerned about the social aspect of the problem.

Farmers in the region are exploited by marijuana growers and traffickers, he said. They either accept work on their plantations for meager salaries or leave the region because they cannot survive, he added.

The DPF destroyed nearly 10.5 million square feet of marijuana plantations throughout the country this year alone, 70 percent of which were located in Pernambuco State. According to DPF spokesman Paulo Marra, the Federal Police will intensify their operations in the "marijuana triangle." In the last operation in the state last August, police destroyed 12 million square feet of marijuana plantations in a single raid.

Chile

Adm Merino Announces March 1989 Retirement

PY1307025588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Today Admiral Jose Toribio Merino confirmed that he will be retiring in March 1989. He did not discard the possibility of running for a senatorial seat during the next presidential term. Merino made this announcement after presiding over the regular government junta meeting in the Diego Portales building.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Admiral, is it true that you disclosed to foreign diplomats that you will retire on 11 March 1989?

[Marino] I made it clear that when the yes vote wins—it is going to win—by 18 March I will have nothing else to do, and this is why I am retiring.

[Reporter] But Congress will begin its activities in 1990.

[Merino] Yes, Congress starts in 1990.

[Reporter] But there are several months in between.

[Merino] Yes, but I would like to take a little rest. I have been here 15 years, and you have been seeing me every Saturday and Tuesday. [end recording]

Adm Merino was also asked if he would like to become a senator in the next presidential term. Merino said:

[Begin Merino recording] God willing, and if I am still alive and in good spirits, I would perhaps like to see how things were done before we took over. [end recording]

Regarding the violence organized by extremists in downtown Santiago which caused destruction, arrests, and injuries, Adm Merino said that the violence was planned by the Communist Party aimed at creating, among other things, the conditions to question the upcoming plebiscite. [passage omitted]

Ministry on 'Regrettable' Gulf Incident

PY1207184688 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 6 Jul 88 p C-4

[Text] Yesterday the Foreign Ministry described as a "regrettable affair" last Sunday's incident in which a U.S. warship shot down by mistake an Iranian airliner with 290 passengers aboard.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci said: "We obviously regret the loss of human lives, especilly those of innocent people."

Poll on Views of Undecided in Plebiscite

PY1207232288 Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish 5 Jul 88 pp 9, 31, 32

[All figures as published]

[Excerpt] One of the main conclusions reached by the latest public opinion poll conducted by the Center of Public Studies, CEP, is that the "yes vote" will have "its greatest problems" with the youth: people ranging from 18 to 21 years of age. This poll was conducted from 22 April to 26 May in the greater Santiago area with the technical support of Adimark. The population of the greater Santiago area represents about one-third of the total number of potential voters nationwide. LA SEGUNDA obtained results of the poll, which is currently being published.

The plebiscite will be decided by those still undecided; they represent about one-third of the electorate. The poll indicates that the majority of the undecided tend to be conservative. For example, most of them prefer, in order of preference, Alessandri, Frei, Pinochet, and Allende. These voters are found in all social classes; however, in fact, they are people of the lower socioeconomic level with only a primary education. These people do not belong to the work force (women, youth, etc.).

The fact that the undecided are potential yes vote enthusiasts does not necessarily mean they are going to vote yes. Their vote will depend on the effectiveness of the yes and no vote campaigns in the coming months. At the time of this study, there was a clear majority who believed that no vote supporters were increasing faster than yes vote supporters.

During the poll, the people were not asked directly if they would vote yes or no, but only if they knew how they were going to vote. The question was asked that way because the study was aimed at the undecided voters. However, the people were asked if they believed that Augusto Pinochet would be a better or worse president if he wins the plebiscite. By a margin of 10 percent, more people thought Pinochet would be a "bad president" rather than a "good one." About one-third did not give an opinion. Based on a point system of one to seven, the government received a figure just under four, while the opposition obtained a figure just under four. [sentence as published] The government receives its lowest figures from the youth. The poll was conducted from 22 April to 6 May 1988 [date as published]. The interviews lasted for 15 minutes. An equal number of men and women 18 years and older living in greater Santiago were surveyed. The population of the area is 2,676,894.

The sampling was proportional to community size, and the sampling selection involved three aspects: selection of blocks, homes, and people.

The poll involved 969 people: 48.9 percent men, and 51.1 percent women.

Fifty percent of those interviewed were between the ages of 18-34; 28.1 percent from 35-50; and 21.8 over 51 years old.

The socioeconomic level of those interviewed is as follows: 4.2 percent high- level, 55.4 percent medium, and 40.5 percent low.

The sampling margin of error is 3.1 percent. [passage omitted]

Vanguard Party Leader on Plebiscite Poll

PY1207163688 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The leader of the National Vanguard Party, Benjamin Matte, said that the recent poll conducted by Gallup—one of the more respected polling companies—has revealed good news for the yes vote option.

The poll mentioned by Matte shows that 42.1 percent of the people polled will vote yes, while 33.4 percent will vote no in the upcoming plebiscite.

The result of the recent Gallup poll shows that 60 percent of the Chilean citizens want this government to continue in power, said Matte, and all good things should continue. He added that this confirms what the government suporters have been stating and it shows what the country really wants.

Moreover, added Matte, it is very significant that every 6 out of 10 people registered with the electoral court agree that Chile has progressed and developed greatly during the past 10 years.

Opposition Party Leaders Postpone Meeting

PY1207232588 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The meeting that the presidents of opposition parties and organizations were supposed to hold at the No Vote House [Case del No] has been postponed for one week. The meeting had been called by Patricio Aylwin, spokesman of the opposition groups, who had also distributed the agenda together with the invitation. That agenda stated that the Christian Democratic Party

[PDC] intended to ratify the leadership that will coordinate the political campaign against the fulfillment of norms established under the Constitution, such as the designation of the single candidate by the commanders of the Armed Forces and the forces of order.

The explanation given at the No Vote House, located at 309 Alameda Avenue, is that the meeting has been canceled because not all leaders of political parties and organizations had been notified about the meeting.

However, this does not seem to be the real reason. It has been learned that the PDC is desperate because of the lack of leadership within the opposition. This party is practically alone, and its president is being used as spokesman, as if he were some jack-of-all-trades, and this is disgraceful for the party. It is pitiful.

Aylwin, Zaldivar, Boeninger, and all those who are members of the PDC board have been feeling very uncomfortable over the past few days about the document issued by grassroots leaders who criticized the PDC's participation in the campaign for the no vote. They accused the PDC board of lacking consistency in agreements with other parties.

In other words, they told Aylwin that he is being manipulated by Marxists who are masters in undermining boards, especially if the boards are overconfident, as in the case of the PDC.

Aylwin is also accused of not maintianing a relationship with the rank-and-file of the party, which it governed at one time. This leaves the PDC leaders in a very uncomfortable position. They are now being forced by the grassroots to reassume the leadership of the opposition, and not to allow politicians with followers, such as Eugenio Velazco who presides over one faction of the PDC, to try and achieve a post on the Executive Board of the No Vote House. Velazco, by the way, received a no at the house: He will not be able to join the executive command for the No Vote House. All the seats are already occupied by PDC, Humanist, Radical, and PPD [Party for Democracy] leaders and Luis Mayra, who represents the radicals of leftist organizations. As the saying goes, the boat is already filled with water and soon it will sink.

FPMR: No Vote Victory Will Not Stop Violence

PY1207215388 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Jul 88 p C4

[Text] Three leaders of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] terrorist organization have warned that "we will not lay down our arms" if the no vote wins in the upcoming plebiscite and the present structure of the military regime is maintained. This statement was made during a clandestine news conference, somewhere in Santiago, attended only by foreign news agency, REUTER, reporters.

The news agency report says "the FPMR anticipates 'a considerable' increase in their activities if the military government wins the upcoming plebiscite."

The news conference was attended by two men (Commanders "Daniel" and "Bernardo") and a woman, all of whom were hooded. According to the report, they said that they form part of one of two factions into which the FPMR split last year, and which operate under the same name and use similar symbols and slogans.

The report says the extremists maintain that "the people would not accept a victory of the yes vote, which resulted from fraud. Therefore, we will increase our activity. This is not a terror campaign; it is the truth."

The report adds that "the guerrillas were permanently guarded by two men carrying M-16 rifles."

The report says also that so-called "Commander Daniel" warned that "the dictatorship's attempt at perpetuating itself in power will force us to greatly increase our acitivity."

He added that, meanwhile, they will continue to sabotage what they call "Pinochet's ballot boxes."

The report adds "the hooded ones said that they form part of a faction that the press has identified as 'the Party Front,' owing to their apparent link to the Communist Party, even though the guerrilla group and the Communist Party deny it."

The report adds that the individuals reiterated their responsibility for dozens of bomb attacks and the unsuccessful assassination attempt on Pinochet at La Serena Airport. On that occasion explosives were placed under one of the airstrips at the airport.

The report adds that the terrorists said that they were involved "in 'a harrassment campaign' against Pinochet and that he will find FPMR people harrassing him wherever he goes."

The terrorists added that before the plebiscite "we will carry out large-scale operations, and we will continue afterwards.

They refused to anticipate "if there will be a 'truce'" on the day of the voting, adding that they will decide that later.

"Commander Bernardo" told REUTER: "If the opposition decided to not participate in the plebiscite, we would boycott it."

The report adds that "the FPMR leaders rejected charges linking them with the recent murder of Carabineros members and expressed doubts that the other faction murdered a retired Army colonel a month ago, as claimed by this group through a communique issued to the media."

The report says that one of the FPMR leaders said: "We have our doubts because of the way they describe the incident and the details they provide. The problem is they do not deny it."

The faction participating in the clandestine news conference is known as the FPMR Dissident Group. Last year the group claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Army Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno Barrera and the recent unsuccessful attempt on ad hoc Military Judge Fernando Torres Silva.

Radical Democratic Party Selects Executive Board
PY1207190788 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Jul 88 p C-2

[Excerpt] The Radical Democratic Party [PDR] national convention ended on 2 July. The following people were elected to the PDR Executive Board: Jaime Tormo, president; Rafael Otero, vice president; Enrique Schilling, secretary general; Juan Esteban Montero, treasurer; Edwin Lathrop, Julio Duran, Julio Reyes, Emilio Edwards, Hector Duran, Maria Molina, and Monica Hyde, board members. The Court of Honor inlcudes Hernan Garcia Valenzuela, president; Floreal Toledo, Victor Estay, Carlos Greve, Fernando Tapia, and Waldo Crovari, members; and Rene Lagos and Esteban Sanz, alternate members. [passage omitted]

200 Arrested in Santiago Violence; 3 Injured
PY1207161488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Last night members of the opposition set seven buses on fire. Two hundred people were arrested—among them two foreigners—and two Carabineros were wounded. This is the result of incidents in downtown Santiago last night.

Carabineros General Gabriel Ormeno, chief of Carabineros in the metropolitan region, disclosed that the extremists used a new method of operation. He said that to signal the beginning of the violence and to coordinate the subversive activities, a group of unidentified individuals simultaneously launched flares from the Santa Lucia hill and the Plaza de Armas.

Gen Ormeno disclosed this information last night after 145 people had been arrested.

[Begin recording] [Ormeno] These incidents started at 1800 this evening with the launching of two flares, one from the Plaza de Armas and another from the Santa Lucia hill. The incidents were staged primarily in the downtown area. As a consequence of the violence, five public transport vehicles and a private vehicle were set on fire. There have been demonstrations and damage to private and public property. Right now approximately 145 people have been arrested for participating directly in these incidents and causing damage.

[Reporter] General, according to the information we have gathered, there are some foreigners among the arrested people. Has this been confirmed?

[Ormeno] This has not been confirmed, but apparently two foreigners, who participated actively in these incidents, have also been arrested.

[Reporter] How about the outskirts of the city? Do you have any information of incidents there?

[Ormeno] So far the situation on the outskirts of the city is perfectly normal.

[Reporter] What advice would you, in your capacity as chief of the metropolitan region, give the people of Santiago?

[Ormeno] I would tell them to remain calm, that the situation is under control, and that they should fear nothing. Carabineros are taking action and are aware of any developments. [end recording]

Members of the police forces are conducting investigations to find those responsible for a bomb explosion at a side entrance of the Education Ministry.

The bomb had been planted under the private vehicle of the Education General Administration Department Director, (Albelky Colombo Bresky).

The explosion seriously damaged windows of offices in the area, but despite its intensity, it did not cause any casualties.

Education Minister Juan Antonio Guzman inspected the area and, in a brief statement to the media, he condemned this act of violence.

As a consequence of other violence, seven public transport vehicles were destroyed and another was damaged by incendiary bombs.

A bus driver, identified as (Juan Fuenzalida Torres), 25, sustained burns on his right leg and had to be taken to a first aid post for treatment.

Two Foreigners Arrested

PY1307020988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The organizers of last night's violent demonstrations again resorted to funds from foreigners. Carabineros officially reported that two foreigners participated in the demonstrations and that 216 people are under arrest.

The arrested foreigners are (Max Setter Alton) from New Zealand, and (Lincoln Kerber Bell) from Australia, both of whom are in the custody of the appropriate diplomatic officials. Of those in custody, 119 are accused of violating the state security law and 11 of violating the antiterrorist law.

During the vandalism carried out primarily by youth groups, two Carabineros were injured by rocks thrown at them when they tried to stop the demonstrators from destroying public and private property. A communique released by the Carabineros reiterated the comments made by General Gabriel Ormeno that the violent incidents began in a coordinated manner when flares were thrown from Santa Lucia hill and that young and adults, men, and women, participated in the demonstrations.

Because of this situation Carabineros called on parents and tutors to prevent their sons and daughters from participating in these incidents because extremists use them in their plans.

The Carabineros communique also reported that 7 buses were destroyed, and that 18 were damaged by either Molotov cocktails or bombs left inside the buses by terrorist elements.

Country Hosts International Artists Meeting

PY1207033388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2107 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Santiago, 11 Jul (EFE)—Today over 250 personalities from 27 countries, from the artistic, intellectual, and scientific world, opened an international art, culture, and science festival for democracy called "Chile Creates." The festival will last the entire week.

Painting, photographs, and video shows, together with theater shops, simultaneously opened in the capital and provincial cities, according to the organizers, "to make the strong and clear voice of the world's intelligence sound in the streets of the country during July, as a salute to a people who decisively march toward their freedom."

Writers such as Graham Greene from Great Britain; Osvaldo Soriano, David Vinas, and Jorge Asis, from Argentina; Antonio Cisneros from Peru; and Manuel Vazquez Montalban from Spain joined with Santiago artists such as Anna Karina and Anouk from France; and singers such as Daniel Viglietti, Alfredo Zitarrosa, and Leo Masliah from Uruguay are participating in the festival.

The event will be officially opened at 0000 GMT tonight in Santiago's Baquedano Theater. Chilean painter Jose Balmes and Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano will speak at the opening ceremony.

The first day of the event includes a painting exhibition, artisans shops, painting competitions, and discussions on the topic "Culture and Democracy in Chile."

The organizers have already reported the presence in Chile of intellectuals from Argentina, the FRG, Hungary, Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Italy, Venezuela, France, the Netherlands, Uruguay, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Portugal, Denmark, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, the United States, Greece, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Spain, Belgium, and Great Britain. Artists such as Marcelo Mastroiani and Vittorio Gassman, who could not attend due to previous commitments, sent videos with greetings.

Tuesday, 12 July, will be dedicated to poetry; Wednesday, 13 July, to movie and video shows; Thursday, 14 July, to folk songs; and Friday, 15 July, to a joint show of several disciplines. The festival will end on Saturday, 16 July, when a folk show will be staged.

Colombia

M-19 To Announce 'Possible' Gomez Release Date

PA1207183388 Paris AFP in Spanish 1805 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Bogota, 12 Jul (AFP)—The left-wing Colombian M-19 will announce on Thursday, 14 July, the date of the possible release of politician Alvaro Gomez, 69, who was kidnapped 44 days ago. This was confirmed today by one of the members of a delegation that participated in a meeting with leaders of that insurgent organization on Sunday and Monday in Panama.

The announcement of Gomez' release will be made during a preliminary meeting between Colombian leaders and leaders of that rebel group, who kidnapped the former opposition presidential candidate in Bogota on 29 May.

Army, Guerrillas Clash; 15 Soldiers Dead

PA1207204888 Paris AFP in Spanish 2010 GMT 12 July 88

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 12 Jul (AFP)—Today 15 soldiers were killed and seven were wounded in fighting between the Colombian Army and the communist guerrillas of the FARC and the pro-Castro Army of National Liberation (ELN) in El Bagre, northwestern Antioquia Department.

The 4th Brigade command, stationed in Medellin, reported that the guerrillas at first harassed the Army's Cordoba Battalion, and later ambushed a patrol that went out to chase them. Thirteen soldiers and two officers were killed in the ambush.

The brief report adds that the fighting is still going on, and the Army is using helicopter gunships to pursue the rebel column.

Medellin Cartel Kills 5 'Cali Cartel' Members

PA1207134688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] Five people were murdered by Medellin Cartel terrorists in San Pedro, close to Medellin. All of them were retired military men, although it has been reported that two of them were active service members. Jorge Alonso Sierra reports:

[Begin Alonso recording] A message was found beside the bodies of five military men on the road from Medellin to San Pedro, on the Balcones Farm owned by Jesuit priests. The message read: These members of the Cali Cartel were executed for threatening the lives of people from Medellin.

The dead men were kidnapped 20 days ago and held in an apartment in the Simon Bolivar District, western Medellin, by a group of armed men. They were found blindfolded, hands and feet tied, without shoes, and dressed in light clothing. The five military men were executed with AR-15 rifles, 9-mm pistols, and 38-caliber revolvers. More than 150 empty shells of these calibers were found near the bodies.

The killers meticulously placed the dead men's identification cards beside their bodies. Their names were: Lieutenant Oscar Mauricio Bedoya Flor, 28; First Sergeant Julio Bolivar Narvaez, 42; First Sergeant Gustavo Bedoya, 41; First Corporal Javier Rodriguez, 34; and Corporal Luis de Jesus Caicedo Cote, 26.

The police also found at the scene three photographs of businessman Hernando Mejia Uribe, who 20 days ago managed to escape from the men who kidnapped the five dead military men. The fate of his wife, who also was kidnapped, is not known.

With this multiple murder, Medellin authorities confirm the existence of a confrontation between the Medellin and Cali Cartels. [end recording]

Paraguay

Foreign, Health Ministers Return From Trips

PY1207154088 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 12 Jul 88 p 14

[Text] Yesterday Foreign Minister Carlos Augusto Saldivar and Public Health Minister Adan Godoy Jimenez reassumed their posts through decrees promulgated by the executive branch and released by the Interior Ministry.

The two ministers will probably inform President Alfredo Stroessner today about the results of the missions entrusted to them.

At the official invitations of the governments of South Korea and Japan, the foreign minister visited Seoul and Tokyo, making brief stopovers in Taipei (Taiwan) and New York.

Returning to Asuncion, the foreign minister told this newspaper that the governments of Japan and South Korea will study plans for technical and financial assistance to priority infrastructure projects, as well as socioeconomic development plans of a short- and medium-term nature.

The health minister also visited Seoul, Taipei, and Tokyo, at the special invitation of those governments, to hold talks with his counterparts in those countries and to observe hospitals.

Peru

Americas Watch Reports Military Interference

PY1207173688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2233 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Lima, 11 Jul (EFE)—Today Americas Watch charged that military restrictions have been imposed on an investigation into "forceful disappearances" in Ayacucho, which has been in a state of emergency for 7 years because of terrorist activities.

In a letter addressed to Peruvian President Alan Garcia, to which EFE had access, Americas Watch envoy Juan Mendez—an Argentine who heads the organization's office in Washington—reported the military interference.

In the letter, the organization also protested the arrest in Ayacucho this past weekend of four people with links to the Social Action Episcopal Commission, which has cooperated with Americas Watch since 1983.

The organization also expressed concern over "the remarkable increase" in the number of missing people in Ayacucho, among them the key witnesses to an event in which some 30 peasants were killed—apparently by the military—in Cayara on 14 May.

Juan Mendez said that despite the government's "good disposition" toward Americas Watch in Lima, where he met with Prime Minister Armando Villanueva and the defense and interior ministers, last Saturday the Ayacucho military authorities did not allow him to carry out an investigation into the missing.

Mendez said that these restrictions are the same that have been imposed on the press for several months. He reiterated a request, previously submitted by his organization, asking that no restrictions be imposed on the work of the media or of human rights organizations.

Mendez rejected an invitation from ruling party Senator Carlos Garcia Melgar to accompany an official commission that is looking into the Cayara massacre.

"We prefer not to become involved in official investigations," Mendez said. Those who were arrested by the Ayacucho military authorities on Saturday were released today, although a German, Riner Ulhe, of the "Peace and Justice Service," is still under arrest.

Among the detainees was Carlos Gallaguer, an Irish priest who yesterday said mass in his cell to pray for reconciliation among all Peruvians, and Pilar Coll, executive secretary of the coordinating board of Peruvian human rights organizations.

Ayacucho political-military command chief General Jorge Valdivia, who ordered the withdrawal of Americas Watch from the area, deplored the arrest of the priest, blaming it on the fact that the policeman who arrested him was not aware of his religious status because the priest "was not wearing his normal clothes."

In the letter to Alan Garcia, Americas Watch charged that five key witnesses of the Cayara massacre who were arrested by uniformed personnel are still missing. The organization asked the Peruvian president to guarantee that they will "appear alive."

Bus Drivers Call for 48-Hour Stoppage

PY1207145888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2149 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 11 Jul (EFE)—Today Peruvians reacted with displeasure to an almost total urban transportation stoppage and to a wave of price increases announced last night by Prime Minister Armando Villanueva del Campo, who also announced the new salary levels.

Demanding higher bus fares, the Peruvians' bus driver federation called for a 48-hour work stoppage today and tomorrow, after two strikes that were staged last week.

The new bus fares went into effect yesterday, but federation members rejected them on the grounds that they are insufficient. The government authorized an 85-percent increase in the $0.04 rate that was in effect until yesterday. The drivers, however, are demanding an immediate 300-percent increase.

The government has promised to increase bus fares two more times before the year is over. On those same days, gasoline price will be increased.

The drivers announced that they will continue to stage strikes until their demands, which include higher bus fares and other measures affecting transportation, are met.

The Labor Minister said that workers will have a 2-hour grace time for late arrivals caused by strike. Only the municipal transportation sector will be operating, using all available units.

Reports received from various Peruvian cities say that the urban transportation strike is virtually everywhere-.[passage omitted]

Police Shot in Holdup; Terrorist Links Viewed

PY1207033088 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2225 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Lima, 11 Jul (EFE)—The police have reported that a Civil Guard sergeant died and another policeman was wounded when they tried to foil a bank holdup in Lima today.

The holdup of the Wiese Bank branch was carried out by seven armed individuals who fled, after shooting the policemen, with two bags filled with an unspecified amount of money.

The bank is located near a battery plant, whose manager, Air Force General Hector Jeri, retired, was kidnapped on 8 July.

Authorities do not rule out the possibility that a terrorist group may be involved in both the bank holdup and Jeri's kidnapping, the objective being to obtain funds.

Uruguay

Zervino on Trip to Japan, Hong Kong, U.S.

PY1207140688 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Before leaving for Japan, Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino said at Carrasco airport a few hours ago that utility rates will be readjusted in the next few days and that UTE [General Administration of State Electric Power and Telephones] rates will be readjusted by approximately 25 percent. We have the remarks by Minister Zerbino, who is traveling with the president of the Central Bank, accountant Ricardo Pascale.

[Begin Zerbino recording] We will first go to Japan, where we will contact officials of the finance, industry, and foreign trade ministries, and we will meet with specialized credit agencies like Eximbank and (?OFS), which is an organization that grants soft credits. We will also meet Foreign Ministry officials, and we will contact the (?Kendaren) organization, which is a private institution cooperating with the Japanese Government in what they call the recycling of the funds that have accumulated as a result of the trade surpluses that Japan has recorded in the past few years.

We will also meet people from the private sector, the banks, and the Chamber of Commerce, including Mr (Tanabe), who will lead a Japanese business delegation

to Uruguay in September. A former Mitsubishi company president, Mr (Tanabe) currently leads the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

After visiting Japan, we will pay a 2-day visit to Hong Kong. This will be the first official visit to Hong Kong by members of the Uruguayan economic team. We will meet bankers and authorities of the various chambers of commerce, and we will provide information on the situation in our country, our economic policy, our achievements, and the possibilities for trade and investment in our country.

On our way home, we will visit Washington to meet IDB and World Bank officials—as we usually do—to analyze the projects that we are considering and to do something that is very important: U.S. trade representative Clayton Yeutter and I will sign an accord that increases the cheese export quota. This accord has just been negotiated with the United States. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Suriname

SELA Official Meets With Shankar, Sedoc

FL1207183288 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 12 Jul 88

[Text] The permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System, SELA, Ambassador Carlos Perez del Castillo, yesterday paid a visit to President Shankar and Foreign Minister Edwin Sedoc.

During the visit, among others, discussions were held about the financial situation of Suriname, Suriname's participation in SELA, the integration in the region, and the (?breaking) of Suriname's isolation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr Castillo is of the opinion that SELA could assist Suriname in the fisheries and [words indistinct] sectors, and in the drafting of the reconstruction program. (?This) morning the permanent secretary held a press conference before leaving Suriname.